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HORTICULTURE

America's Authentic Garden Magazine

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HORTICULTURE

America's Authentic Garden Magazine

CONTENTS • FEBRUARY 1958

VOL. XXXVI—NO. 2

Start Your Winter Pruning Now 64
New Books 69
Readers' Questions Answered 70
Letters To The Editor 71
Glads Are Everybody's Favorite ..... *Thomas R. Manley* 73
For The Cool Plant Room 74
Grow Rock Garden Plants ..... *Edgar L. Totten* 77
Raising Your Annual Seedlings? ..... *Victor H. Ries* 78
Now Is The Time 80
Chase Away The Winter Blues ..... *Eva Beard* 82
Try Exotic Passion Vines ..... *Florence Knock* 84
Plants I Grow In My Greenhouse ..... *Dr. William T. Carleton* 85
New Hybrid Tropical Waterlilies ..... *Louella Uber* 92
Make Room For Perennials ..... *Mary C. Seckman* 95
Rex Begonias Are Easy ..... *Virginia Withee* 96
Garden By The Sea ..... *Betty Jane Hayward* 100
Clubs And Societies 106
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 106
Massachusetts Horticultural Society 106
Coming Events 107

OUR COVERS

Front—"Tropical Waterlily Afterglow"—Developed by Martin E. Randig—Clinto Bryant

Back—"Garden By The Sea"—Garden of Mrs. Foster Whitney and Miss Viola Kneeland—P. E. Genereux

COLOR INSERTS

Page 76—"Spring In The Rock Garden"—Garden of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Manton—P. E. Genereux

Page 93—"Tropical Waterlilies Trail Blazer And Evelyn Randig"—Developed by Martin E. Randig—Clinto Bryant

Page 94—"Early Summer In The Perennial Border"—Garden of Mrs. H. I. Nicholas—Gottscho-Schleisner

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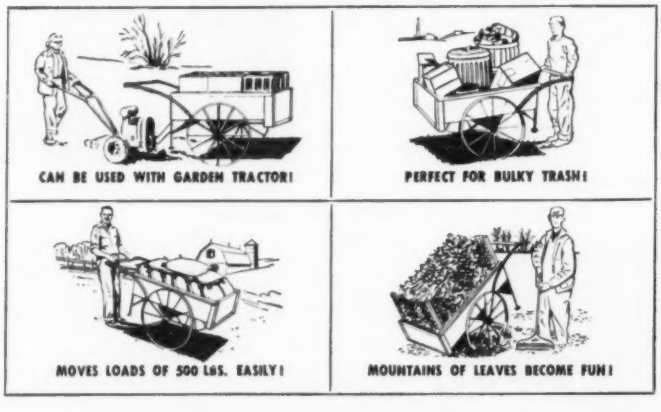

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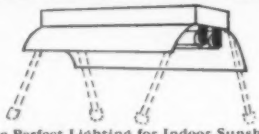

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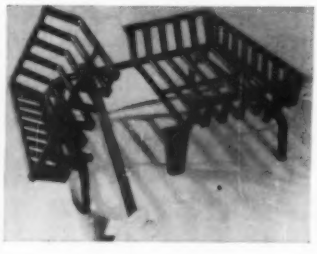

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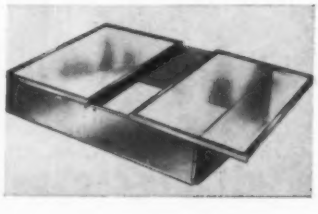

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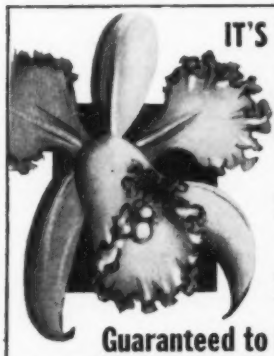

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(Each 2-3")

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10 for $7 25 for $15

Prices postpaid. Send Check or Money Order. Easy growing directions with each order.

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Dept. 141, Geneva, New York

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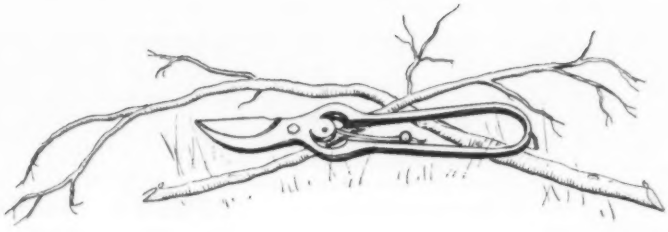

Get a head start on spring

Start Your Winter Pruning Now

At this time of year, gardeners often wonder what they can do to get a head start on spring chores.

There is furniture to be repaired and painted, tools to be cleaned, mechanical equipment to be put in working order, and plans to be outlined. When catalogs arrive, it means it is time to order flower and vegetable seeds, as well as plants.

Another practical task, often overlooked, is that of winter pruning. Not only can a head start be gained on spring, but some kinds of trees are best pruned during the winter. With leaves lacking, it is easier to preserve the natural habit of each plant, which is basic in all pruning.

The time to go out into the garden to prune is during mild spells. Before starting, make certain that the saws, pruning shears and other tools are clean and sharp and that you have on hand tree-wound paint to apply to larger cuts, over an inch in diameter. The paint will keep water out of cuts and prevent diseases and insect pests from gaining a foothold.

Plants to prune at this time include fruit and shade trees. The exception includes any that lose sap and bleed when cut, known as "bleeders". Sugar or red maple belong to this group. Other maples behave similarly, as do walnut, yellow-wood, hornbeam, beech and magnolia. Late summer is the best time to prune these, when the new growth has hardened.

In pruning shade, flowering and fruit trees, first look for dead, weak, damaged and diseased branches. This is a basic rule for all pruning, no matter when done. Next study each specimen carefully and cut out thick, tangled growth, paying particular attention to branches that either cross or rub against one another.

When pruning trees give thought to structure and framework. All pruning aims toward an even structure, with a strong leader and branches that spread in all directions, with open rather than V crotches. Since a branch or trunk breaks "naturally" during storms at a V crotch, eliminate this structure by cutting off one of the two branches flush with the other.

No matter how large or small the branch, be careful to leave no stubs, since these decay. When they do, the decay may spread to the branch or trunk. And, of course, remember to paint cuts with the tree paint.

Among trees generally pruned in late winter or very early spring are those that bear fruit. On apples remove thick growth to open up and allow air and sun to enter. Cut any branches that cross and eliminate any that are diseased or damaged. Be less drastic with

See page 66

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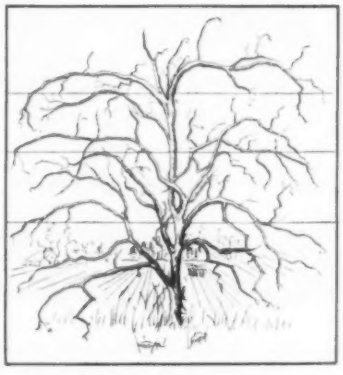
Start Winter Pruning Now

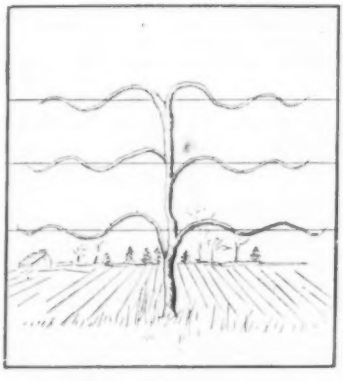
From page 64

pears, which are prone to get the fire blight disease if too many wounds are made.

At this time also prune peaches, which bear fruit on the new growth,



Grape before pruning



Grape after pruning

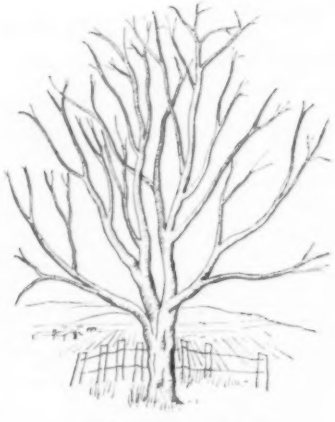
and plums and cherries, which require light pruning to get rid of undesirable wood. Another fruit that requires winter pruning, because it bleeds freely if cut in the spring, is grape.

Flowers and fruit are borne on the last season's growth, so leave enough year-old branches, two to four feet long, to fill in between the structure, depending on how the vine is trained. Grape buds also snap off easily if pruning is postponed to spring, when they start to grow.

With trees of all kinds there is the question of cutting off lower branches. Either they interfere with your outdoor activities or they cast too much shade on the lawn or plants around them. This is the time to cut them. Some trees, like lindens and plane trees, produce suckers at the base, and these should be cut off, as well as "water sprouts," which are vigorous, dense shoots that usually sprout from the larger branches. Often they appear where a large branch has been snapped or broken off. In that case, allow one or two sprouts to develop into new branches.

Although spring-flowering shrubs require heaviest pruning just after blooming, some can be done now. If you are in the habit of doing some periodic pruning, little will be needed now, but

Apple before pruning



Apple after pruning

if your plants are overgrown, tangled masses, more will have to be removed. Again, take off dead, weak and diseased wood and do a little thinning by cutting to the base some of the oldest and thickest branches.

Remember, however, that the major pruning will come after flowering, since flower buds have been formed during

See page 68

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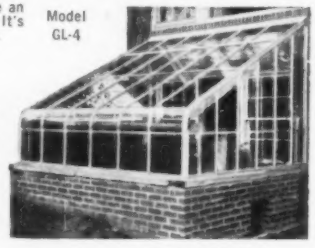

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Start Winter Pruning Now

From page 66

the previous season. Among the more popular members in this group are forsythia, vanhoutte spirea, flowering quince, lilac, mock-orange, viburnum, kerria, flowering almond, daphne and shrub dogwood.

Another group of shrubs that requires different treatment is the summer-flowering, which bloom on the new growth of the current season. These can be pruned now or in the early spring, depending on the hardiness of each, but you can be more severe because flower buds are not involved.

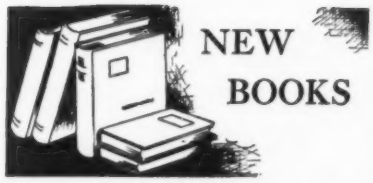
Shrubs which are very hardy can be gone over now, but with others, on the tender side, its is better to wait until warm weather to see what has been killed. With many, such as butterfly

Left—Improper way to cut a limb. Right—Correct method is by tying limb to another and then making a downcut above, an upcut below and lastly cutting the stub flush with the main trunk or branch of tree.

bush, vitex and caryopteris, there is often a certain amount of winterkill. Other shrubs which belong in this group include rose of sharon, Anthony Waterer spirea, pegee and snowhill hydrangeas, potentillas and hypericums.

This is not the time to prune evergreens, but rather just before new growth starts or after it has hardened in the early summer. If pruning will be severe, do it in the spring in order to give growth a chance to fill in. If it is to be light, in the manner of clipping or trimming, late summer, after new growth has hardened, is better. At Christmas time and throughout the winter, evergreens are not harmed if pieces are taken for decoration.

Before pruning, remember to disinfect tools to prevent the spread of diseases, particularly if they are present, by rubbing the cutting parts with radiator alcohol. While using pruning shears, have on hand a small container of this alcohol and dip head of the shears in it between cuts. Much damage can be prevented later as a result of this extra precaution.



NEW BOOKS

Books reviewed on this page may be ordered from Horticulture's Book Dept., 300 Mass. Avenue, Boston 15, Mass.

To Make Winter Gay

COLOUR IN THE WINTER GARDEN. *By Graham Stuart Thomas. Chas. T. Branford Co., Boston, Mass., 220 pp. $6.50*

Gardeners in the more temperate parts of the country doubtless will find this English volume useful, but only a few of the many plants mentioned can be grown in northern gardens.

The Christmas rose heads the list of winter-flowering plants, but Mr. Thomas discusses many more hellebores than are grown in this country. Our own common witch-hazel is given slight attention, though there is much enthusiasm for several forms, developed across the water, that might be relatively hardy here.

Our native white birch and many other trees, as well as the red-osier and yellow-twigged dogwoods, are mentioned with appreciation. This is true, also, of the pyracanthas, holly and some forms of euonymus. Black alder or winterberry, however, seems not to have been discovered by Mr. Thomas. —E. I. F.

Art of Dwarfing Trees

THE JAPANESE ART OF MINIATURE TREES AND LANDSCAPES. *by Yuji Yoshimura and Giovanna M. Halford. Charles E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vt. 220 pp. $7.50*

Although the art of growing dwarf trees and miniature landscapes has reached its apex in Japan, as an art form it may be enjoyed anywhere. This handsome volume not only covers the subject thoroughly, but proves that the growing and caring for bonsai, as the art is called, is a relatively systematic science that can be taught to anyone.

The authors, who are recognized masters in the field, give detailed instructions, along with helpful diagrams and charts, and have used numerous photographs to help the student along. They bring out clearly the various styles of bonsai and cover such important factors as the choice of pot, the position of the tree in the container, the angle at which it is set and the way in which the exposed roots are arranged.

This book is intended for those who are interested in trying this art themselves and adopting it as a hobby. Likewise, it is intended for those who prefer to purchase bonsai already grown and want to know how to care for the plants. —I. D. N.

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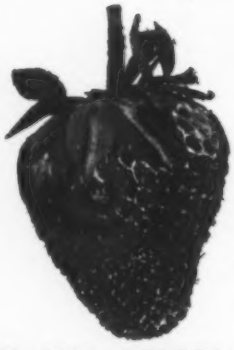

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READERS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED

I have a shrimp plant in full bloom which is losing its lower leaves. How can this be stopped?

Shrimp plant grows best in a cool room where the temperature ranges between 55 and 65 F. Since it appreciates a moist atmosphere, syringe leaves periodically and keep container of water nearby to provide humidity, because a hot, dry atmosphere, more than anything else, causes leaves to dry and drop off. In addition, keep soil evenly moist at all times, and when plants become leggy with age, start new ones from cuttings.

☆ ☆ ☆

Is it really necessary to knock snow off evergreens? To me it is so beautiful.

Although evergreens laden with snow are attractive to look at, the weight of the snow, particularly when it freezes after rain or warm weather to become ice, can break branches and disfigure the appearance of evergreens. The best time to knock it off, with something soft like a broom, is just after it has fallen, but if it has hardened, do not meddle with the evergreens, since it is easy to break them. It is also advisable to shake snow from evergreen hedges, since the weight of the snow may cause them to spread apart and when this happens their appearance can be permanently impaired.

☆ ☆ ☆

My ceriman or monstera (Monstera deliciosa) has lost all its leaves except one at the top. What remains seem healthy, though it seems to have stopped growing. What can I do to induce new shoots to appear?

Improper environmental conditions and cultural practices have undoubtedly caused the leaves to drop. This is unusual, because monstera is such an easy plant to grow. Perhaps it was a case of overwatering or underwatering or that the plant was subjected to cold air and drafts. Then it might need repotting or feeding or perhaps more and stronger light. In your case, if the tip is still healthy, why not cut it and root it in water or in sand and peatmoss to make a new plant, and then cut back the stem of the original plant to about six inches to induce it to branch. Repot if necessary and give light feedings with a liquid fertilizer. Unlike most philodendrons, to which it is closely related, monstera needs plenty of strong light.

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Never So Early

Dear Editor—I thought you would be interested in knowing that my yellow-flowering winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) was in bloom in my garden on Christmas day. I also cut some branches and brought them indoors, and it is amazing how the buds swelled and the flowers expanded to look like forsythia in the spring. I never remember my jasmine blooming so early.

—Louis Fabian Bachrach
Newton, Mass.

I Root Mine In Water

Dear Editor—In reference to the letter on diffenbachia by Edith Bancroft Paddock in the "Letters to the Editor" column of the January issue of *Horticulture*, I thought you would like to know that I have a dieffenbachia, which took first prize at a local flower show, whose tops I cut each year and root in rain water.

Then I cut the stalk that remains into inch-long pieces and rest them on the surface of soil where they root and become new plants. New shoots also appear from the base of the original plant, as Edith Paddock points out clearly.

Last spring and summer my dieffenbachias were unusually healthy and vigorous. I water them entirely with rain water and feed them with liquid dehydrated manure once a month on which they seem to thrive.

—Dorothy Thomson
Cambridge, Md.

Which Is Your Method?

Dear Editor—When I lived in the outskirts of Philadelphia I had a small rose garden, which I was unable to water. I did, however, cultivate it thoroughly and frequently, and my plants bloomed freely, even in the severe drought of 1930, when no rain fell from mid-June to November.

Every fall, I would cut back the canes to six or eight inches from the ground, hill them with soil and apply a thick mulch of cow manure. The plants always thrived and bloomed well until I had to move away.

This past fall, after the hottest and driest season on record, I visited a rose nursery, where the plants had not been irrigated, though they were cultivated frequently. Plants were thriving, and I wondered how the long, strong canes had the strength to carry so many blossoms.

I am wondering how readers of Horticulture handle their roses—whether they water them or not during periods of drought and even more especially whether they cut them back severely in the fall or early spring or leave the canes long.

—Dr. T. McKean Downs
Bryn Mawr, Penna.

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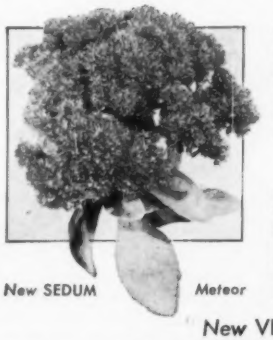

New MAGNOLIA, *Dr. Merrill*

The development of this superb new "star-like" magnolia at Arnold Arboretum in Boston is a real achievement. Unlike other varieties, it is hardy as an oak, grows rapidly and transplants without the slightest difficulty. In early spring, it is a vision of unforgettable beauty. Graceful branches are completely hidden under snow-white drifts of delightful, star-like blossoms.

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One of the showiest of the tall growing varieties. Glowing, carmine-red flower heads bloom on leafy 18" stems. Soft, gray-green foliage remains handsome throughout the year. In Summer and early Autumn, the brilliant flower heads put on a dazzling display. Outstanding in front of shrubs and for borders. Stunning in tubs for porch, terrace or roof garden decoration. Requires little or no care.

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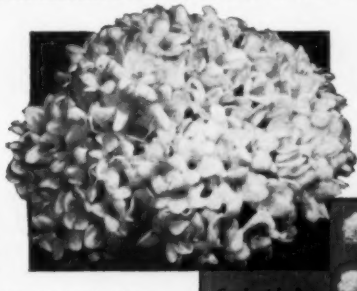

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Silhouette Against the Sky

TREES IN WINTER have a special appeal. Evergreens, now that deciduous trees have lost their leaves, stand out clearly against the landscape, but it is the deciduous kinds that take on a vastly different character, with their intricate pattern of branches and twigs, each different, each unique. Fascinating is this weeping mulberry silhouetted against the sky, but equally appealing are the vase-shaped elms, the rounded maples, the pyramidal Lombardy poplars, the picturesque apples, the horizontal branching dogwoods, the drooping weeping willows and many other kinds. In addition to their forms, trees in winter are interesting for the texture of their barks, which again is more pronounced when the foliage is lacking. In some instances, the bark is colored, and trees like birches and plane trees, as well as shrubs like red osier and yellow-twig dogwoods, do much to enliven the winter scene—and our spirits, too.

Glads... are everybody's favorite

THOMAS R. MANLEY, Selingsgrove, Pennsylvania

TIME AND TIME AGAIN gardeners have said to me, "Gladiolus are so difficult to fit into the flower garden."

To this I agree, if only the tall, large flowering types are grown, though not because they do not make a brilliant display when combined with other flowers. Rather it is because they resent competing with other plants for sun, moisture and nourishment.

Where space permits, it is ideal to give sun loving gladiolus all the space they need. Then, when flowering is past, they can be replaced by other plants to continue the color parade until frost, although gladiolus will flower for several weeks if corms of varying sizes are planted every few weeks, timing the last planting so that the bulbs will bloom before frosts. If grown in rows in the vegetable or cutting garden, the removal of spikes will not mar the color pattern of the flower border.

Actually, gladiolus are not difficult to fit into the flower garden, if you know what varieties to select and the size of corms to purchase.

Today, most houses are small, with flower gardens in proportion to their size. Borders with large perennial or woody plant material, that have spreading root systems, create shade that is detrimental to gladiolus. Trees, also, present a shade problem.

Gladiolus, however, can successfully compete with sun-loving annuals, which have small and shallow root systems. The long, narrow, sword-like leaves of the large kinds can push upward for light, while miniatures can be grown with other edging plants.

Gladiolus are classified into five size groups, according to flower size. Needless to say, the plant and spike are in proportion to the size of the floret. Large flowering types have about 18-30 florets, while 12-20 florets may be counted on miniatures.

Giant flowering varieties measure 48″-72″ tall, with florets over 5½″ in diameter, with some up to 7″-8″. Large flowering varieties grow 48″ to 65″ tall, with florets 4½″ to 5¼″, while medium flowering varieties attain 36″ to 48″ and have florets that are 3½″ to 4¼″ across. Small flowering varieties reach 24″ to 36″, with 2½ to 3¼-inch florets, and miniatures, which grow 18″ to 24″ tall, have florets that are 1″ to 2¼″ in diameter.

Tall growing varieties may be planted among perennials or annuals or in front of shrubbery as accent plants. Varieties of greatest value, however, are the smaller flowering, because they make ideal border plants where height is desired, without producing massive foliage.

Most of these produce two or more spikes per corm and provide a longer flowering period, with their light, airy spikes that are excellent for cutting.

Turn to page 90

Valor, a deep salmon, with a yellow throat, is one of many varieties of this popular summer-flowering bulb that grows with little care in home gardens. In order to make the selecting of varieties easier, gladiolus are divided into five different groups, according to size. Therefore it is possible to select kinds to suit the individual need of the home gardener. Also by planting new corms at intervals, it is easy to extend the blooming period extensively. In addition these summer bulbs make exceptional cut flowers since they are very long lasting.

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For the Cool Plant Room

IF YOU HAVE a cool greenhouse or plant room, with temperatures at 45-55° F., two attractive plants that you can grow are the Mexican bush salvia (*Salvia leucantha*) from Mexico and the potato vine (*Solanum jasminoides*) from Brazil.

Mexican bush salvia

The shrubby salvia is one of the most handsome winter-flowering plants for cool situations. It is a small bush, two to four feet high, with narrow leaves, like those of sage, to six inches long. They are toothed and white.

The most showy part of Mexican bush salvia is its handsome white and purple spiked flowers that measure eight to 10 inches long. Actually, the small white flowers are inconspicuous and do not last long, but they have a curious, purple, hairy calyx that commands close attention. In fact, large plants in bloom have a striking overall two-toned purple and white.

Of easy culture, this salvia is not fussy about soil. Any good loamy potting mixture, with compost or humus added, is suitable. Good drainage, of course, is important. After flowering, plants may be cut back severely to encourage bushy growth, and in the spring they should be repotted.

When warm weather arrives to stay, place pots outdoors in a partially shaded spot, water freely and feed with a balanced chemical fertilizer while active growth continues. In the fall, bring indoors for flowering, giving them a sunny location. New plants come easily from cuttings taken in the spring.

Potato vine, as its name suggests, is a member of the potato or nightshade family. It is grown primarily for its small, white, starry flowers, tinged with blue, that have a delightful fragrance, hence the species name "jasminoides". They are produced in dense clusters about three inches long. The lower leaves are in groups of three, but the upper ones are entire and simple.

This candidate for the cool room or greenhouse is a delicate climber that grows to 10 feet, but is not so vigorous as to take over and get out of hand. Plants start to flower when young, and are almost always in bloom thereafter.

The potato vine

Give the potato vine a loamy, well drained soil that contains plenty of leafmold or peatmoss. Sun is needed in the winter, but light shade during the summer. Feed with a liquid fertilizer during the active growing period, and for new plants start cuttings in the early spring. Variety *S. jasminoides grandiflorum* has large flowers.

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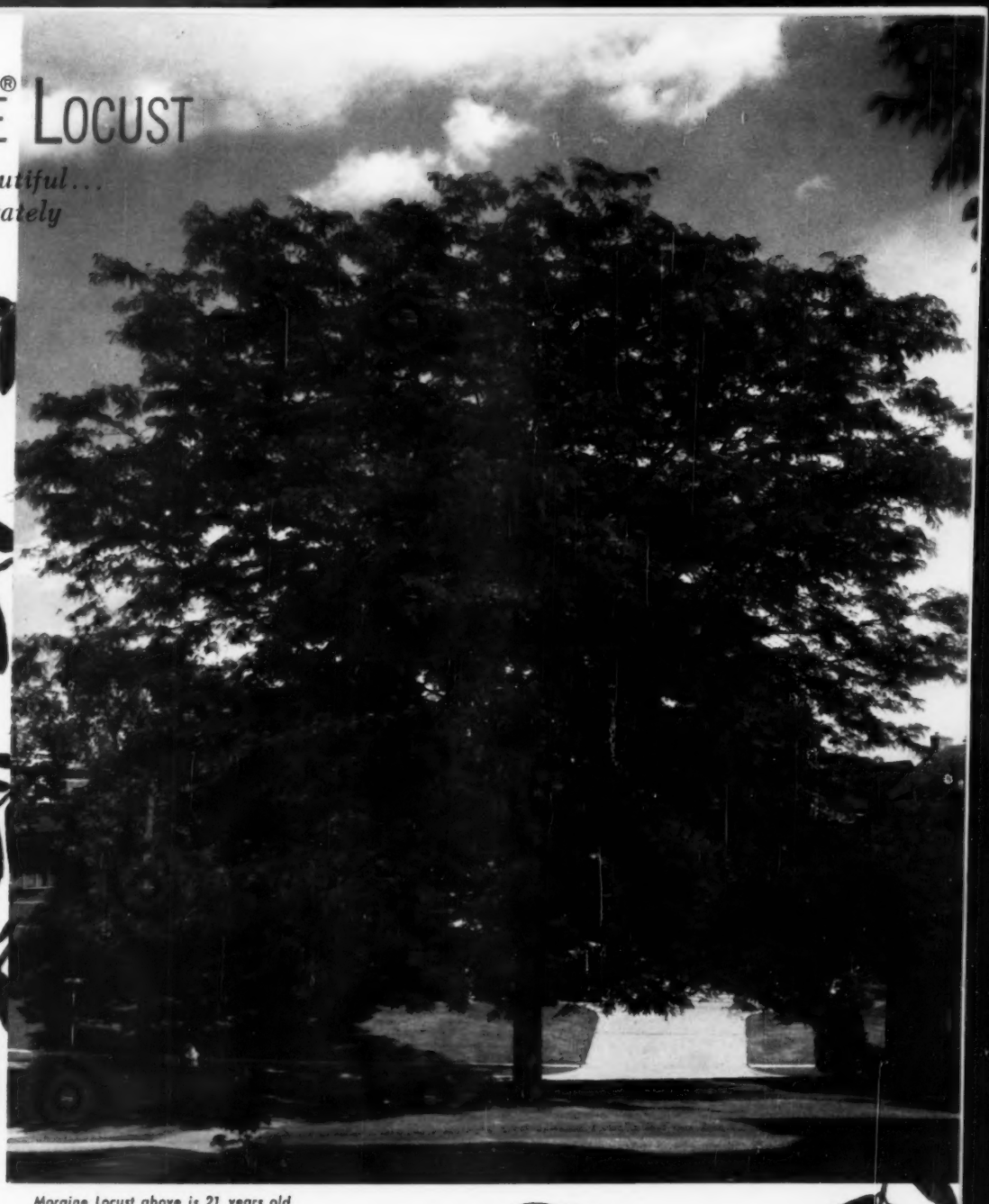

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For Early Spring Color

Grow Rock Garden Plants

EDGAR L. TOTTEN, Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey

ARE YOU INTERESTED in making and planting a small rock garden? If so, let us start with one that measures approximately 40 x 10 feet and will contain some of the common, as well as less familiar, kinds of alpine plants.

In locating the rock garden on the small house property, avoid the front yard, unless it contains a natural outcropping of rocks or is too steep for a lawn. Since the rock garden is a feature to come upon unexpectedly, make every effort to locate where it will have the element of surprise.

A variety of exposures are suitable, though I prefer east or west. Either sun or shade will do, but better is a combination with the southerly half shaded during the hottest part of the day and the northerly half fully exposed to the sun. This will provide a suitable setting for a greater variety of plant material.

Since the expense of trucking stones from any great distance is prohibitive, it is advisable to start with material at hand. Stratified, weathered limestone is preferable, because it lends itself to artistic placement. Tufa, a close second, is followed by hard sandstone, which is desirable for its hardness.

Found over a large part of the country are granitic boulders, more difficult to handle because of their lack of stratification, their weight and their tendency to absorb heat. Yet they can be used to make an attractive rock garden. Granite stones are also not always in boulder form, and in a section of northern New Jersey there are some that are so attractively stratified that it is difficult to distinguish them from limestone.

When placing the stones, proceed slowly and make certain to have enough assistance. Before resting a stone in its permanent position, step back a few feet and have it moved up, down, backward or forward until the desired effect is created. Invariably, one position is better than others.

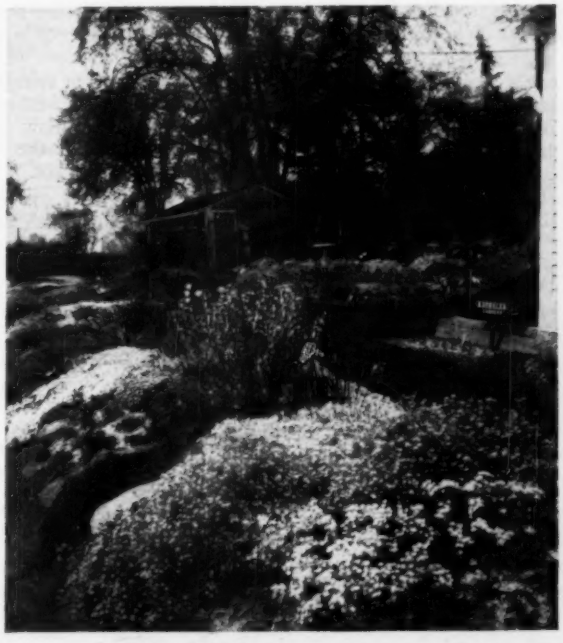
Let us start with the southerly end of the embankment. Using stones of all sizes, place larger stones at the bottom. This does not mean, however, that it is not advisable to place very small stones at the base of a large one to give the appearance that it has broken off and tumbled there from up above.

If, on your jaunts through fields and woods, you have come across attractive rock outcroppings, why not try to imitate them? If there are any defects, they can almost always be remedied by raising, lowering, removing or adding a stone or two. You may find, for example, that the part of the stone that was originally buried in the ground is more attractive than the exposed part. Frequent watering of this stone will enable it to acquire a weathered appearance in time.

Also remember not to be wasteful with your stones. I have seen many rock gardens that would have been more attractive had the builder used half the amount of stones. By knowing in advance the eventual spread of the plant or shrub you intend to plant, you can allow for the right amount of stone to show. A rock that is smothered, let us say, with moss phlox or by creeping juniper has no value. Also try to avoid building the rock garden in a straight line, since a wall garden is another form altogether.

If there is no shade, plant a few native dogwood about 10 feet from the rear of what will be the shady half of the rock garden. Beyond them, about 15 feet away, native hemlocks, interspersed with a clump or two of our native silver birch, will provide a satisfying wintertime picture. If the soil does not have adequate depth, avoid the birch, since it is a moisture robber. For the background of the sunny part of the rock garden, try some of the medium-sized hybrid rhododendrons, hardy azaleas or mountain

See page 102



This is the same rock garden illustrated in color opposite, except that camera is pointed other way

Planning to raise your Annual Seedlings?

GROW THEM THE MODERN WAY

VICTOR H. RIES,
Columbus, Ohio

ANYBODY CAN GROW their own flowers from seed if they will just forget how mother did it.

Nowadays we use soil substitutes instead of the rich soil our parents used. Since many do not have the time nor the patience to use the old-fashioned methods, the newer are more fool-proof and produce better seedlings with less care.

Many of the problems and diseases of seedlings can be avoided by using a more or less sterile, weed-free seed bed. In place of soil, try a mixture of equal parts sand and peatmoss. Use clean sharp sand that has not been lying around the yard, but is fresh from the dealer. Also use peatmoss that is fresh from the bale. Put a one-inch layer of the sand and peatmoss mixture on top of an inch or two of equal parts **soil,** sand and peatmoss, but first sift all this through a quarter inch screen.

Another method is to use shredded sphagnum moss, though this is not as readily obtainable as sand and peatmoss. Start with completely dry sphagnum and then shred it through a quarter inch screen, a dusty and more or less sneezy job. Then place a half layer of this on top of the soil, sand and peat mixture.

Although sphagnum moss has long been recommended and used by rock gardeners, it is rather doubtful if you will find it any better or even as good as sand and peat. But you might want to experiment and sow half your seeds in one and half in the other. Either of these seed beds will be weed-free and sterile.

When using these mediums, seldom will there be any need to treat the seeds with a disinfectant, such as ferbam, captan or aramite, to prevent the various damping-off diseases. Unless you are constantly overwatering, it is doubtful if you will encounter any trouble with these diseases even during hot, humid summer weather.

When starting the easiest annuals, sow evenly in rows, in flats, or directly in a coldframe out-of-doors. Some gardeners prefer to sow the seeds in clay pots, half filling the pot with the soil, sand and peat mixture and the rest with sand and peat or sphagnum. After pots are filled, press mixture with the end of a tin can to allow for space to hold water and keep the seeds from washing into the next pot.

When using pots, you can plunge them in a flat filled with peat or peat and sand. Again it is well to avoid soil near the surface in order to prevent the spread of damping-off disease. For the average gardener, a three-inch or, at most, a four-inch flower pot will produce enough seedlings of any one kind or variety.

After sowing the seed, use a small soup strainer, or one made of fly screen, to sift a 1/16- to 1/8-inch-layer of sand and peat or shredded sphagnum moss over the surface. These seed beds cannot cake or form a crust, as clay soil does, and for that reason there is nothing to prevent the seeds from germinating and growing. If you supply the proper conditions of temperature and moisture it is almost impossible to keep the seeds from germinating.

Adequate light is extremely important in growing seedlings, even more so than with developed plants. Seeds started indoors must have the sunniest, lightest window you have or you will get long, spindly, anemic seedlings. If the light is so weak that the seedlings lean toward it, place a fluorescent light about 12 inches above the seedlings for 12 to 15 hours a day.

Except for annuals which need an early start in order to bloom before late summer, most kinds can be grown better and easier in a coldframe. Those that require starting indoors include salvias, verbenas, petunias, dahlias, Madagascar periwinkle (*Vinca rosea*) and geraniums. A tight, draft-free coldframe

Flats of annual seedlings that you have grown yourself are not only a joy, but in addition you have named varieties for planting out in your garden when the spring finally comes. Seedlings will need hardening outdoors before planting in their permanent places.

facing south, east or west, and covered with a well fitting sash, can be used surprisingly early.

In the latitude of St. Louis, Columbus (Ohio) and Philadelphia, seed of any annual can be sown as early as March 1st. For each 100 miles northward, it can be planted about a week later. Another rule to go by is to sow when the pussy-willows are ready to pick or when the Cornellian cherries or lenten roses are in bloom.

On the coldframe, either a glass sash or a glass substitute may be used, and if starting seedlings early, make certain there are no cracks or openings in the frame itself or between the frame and the sash, since drafts of cold air must be avoided. Also, replace the soil in the frame with three or four inches of sifted soil, sand and peat and on it place a one-inch layer of sand and peat.

In a pinch, it is possible to use sifted coal ashes in place of the sand, and you will be surprised how well they work. It will be well to keep a little prepared slug bait scattered around the coldframe or dust regularly with a slug dust containing metaldehyde.

When growing seedlings indoors, temperature as well as light can be a limiting factor. The average temperature in our homes is usually too high for most seedlings. Remember that 60° will produce stockier, hardier seedlings than 70°, and the average home is usually warmer than that.

The coldframe, even though it almost freezes on cold days and nights, will give better results with much less attention. Those who live where spring comes late will find an electric heated coldframe to be a good investment. Furthermore, it is necessary if planning to sow in March. Farther south it is amazing what can be grown in a coldframe without any artificial heat.

Seedlings grown indoors must be hardened off before planting in the garden. Keeping them a little dry will harden them some, while putting them out-of-doors on mild days will also help. In this way, they can be gradually toughened to withstand the cold weather in May and early June.

Most seedlings will need transplanting at least once before they are set out. Since there is no nourishment in the sphagnum moss or in the sand and peat, they must get their food from the soil mixture beneath the seed bed surface. The time to transplant seedlings is after they acquire their first or second pair of true leaves.

Here again, they should only be planted in a well prepared soil that has been sifted through a quarter inch screen. Try the same mixture used for African violets—equal parts soil, sand and peat, with a cupful of a balanced commercial fertilizer added to each bushel of soil mixture. Do not allow the roots to dry out when transplanting and you will be amazed to see how the roots grow in this mixture.

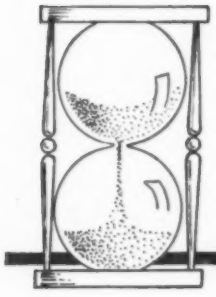
It is always a problem to know how to handle the transplanted seedlings—whether to transplant them two inches or more apart in flats or to place them in pots or bands. If left too long in clay pots, plants become root bound, and it is often difficult for them to start growing out in the soil.

Handle Roots Carefully

When transplanting from flats, even though you are careful to cut out squares for each seedling, there is some damage to the roots. Paper bands, on the other hand, require an extra feeding or fertilizer, since the bacteria decomposing them can stunt the seedlings, but otherwise are satisfactory. There are also bands available of wood and asphalt papers, which are likewise satisfactory, as are peat pots. In general, square pots that fit together are better than rounded ones, such as clay pots.

Proper watering is an art in itself. The seed flats or pots must never be allowed to dry out, not should they be kept too moist so as to encourage diseases. Check them once a day, and if necessary water them that often.

Indoors, seedlings will require almost daily watering, though in the coldframe, they will need but little water, until later in the spring, when the frame will be opened and the air and wind will dry out the seed bed. By using modern soil substitutes, watering seed beds is much less tricky, because they are so well drained.



NOW IS THE TIME

FEBRUARY IS A MONTH, more than most, of endings and beginnings. Many of the plants forced for indoors have finished blooming, while preparations for the outdoor garden are under way.

How to Plant Bulbs

Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and lilies-of-the-valley cannot be forced a second time, but bulbs, if the foliage is permitted to ripen, may be planted in the garden in the autumn to bloom again. Freesia and oxalis bulbs can be dried off and forced again next winter, so remove from pots and keep dry and cool. Paper white narcissus, however, must be discarded. Cyclamen plants may be kept in a cool room until spring and then set in the ground. With care, they will bloom again next winter, though flowers will be smaller.

Some Plants to Keep

Trim azaleas quickly to keep them shapely, since they start new growth very soon after blooming. Keep cool and moist until warm weather and then set in a sheltered place outdoors, though first repot if needed. Discard Chinese primroses that have finished blooming, but the yellow primrose (*Primula kewensis*) may be carried over. Also discard cinerarias, which are great collectors of lice. Jerusalem cherries, poor relations of the tomato, do not make permanent house plants, but seeds from this season's fruit may be sown for flowering plants next winter. Cuttings may be rooted from coleus for planting in the garden and in window boxes later.

Sharpen Lawn Tools

During leisure hours, sharpen and repair garden tools and replace handles of standard tools. Check on tools with long handles to see that they are not leaning against a wall, as this may warp them. To clean metal tools, use emery cloth and steel wool and to remove rust from tools soak them in kerosene for a few days. Hoes, spades and edging tools need sharpening, but not to a razor thinness, for then they would nick easily. To hone sickles and clippers, use an emery stone which requires wetting at frequent intervals.

It's Time to Repot

Many house plants may be repotted now, but think twice before using larger pots. If plants are blooming, repotting will often stop their flowering. After repotting, wait a week or two before feeding. Mink manure is a new fertilizer for house plants, especially African violets. On ferns, be on the lookout for scale and control it with an aerosol bomb.

Other Points to Check

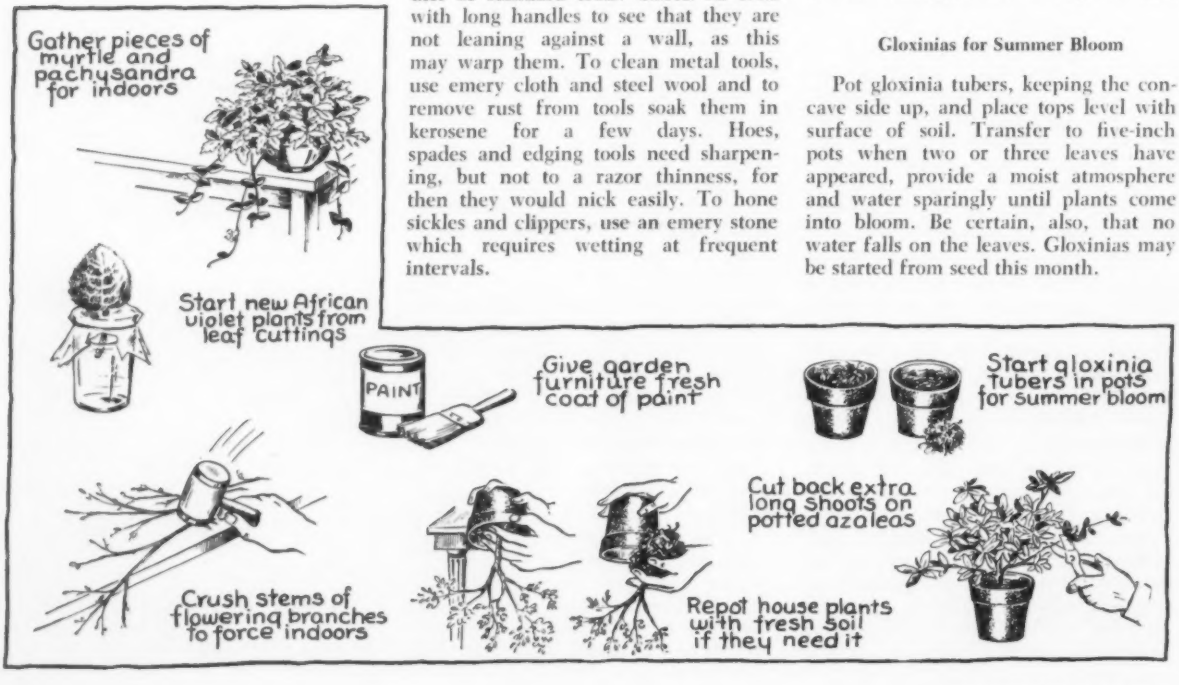
Double tulips can be forced more readily than earlier in the season. As days grow longer, all kinds of house plants will need more water, but if leaves turn brown or yellow or drop, overwatering will probably be to blame. If geraniums are not flowering, pots may be too large or they may receive too little sunlight or too much water. Overwatering at this time will cause Christmas cactus to drop its flower buds. With a soft cloth wipe the leaves of rubber plants, pandanus, dracenas and other foliage plants.

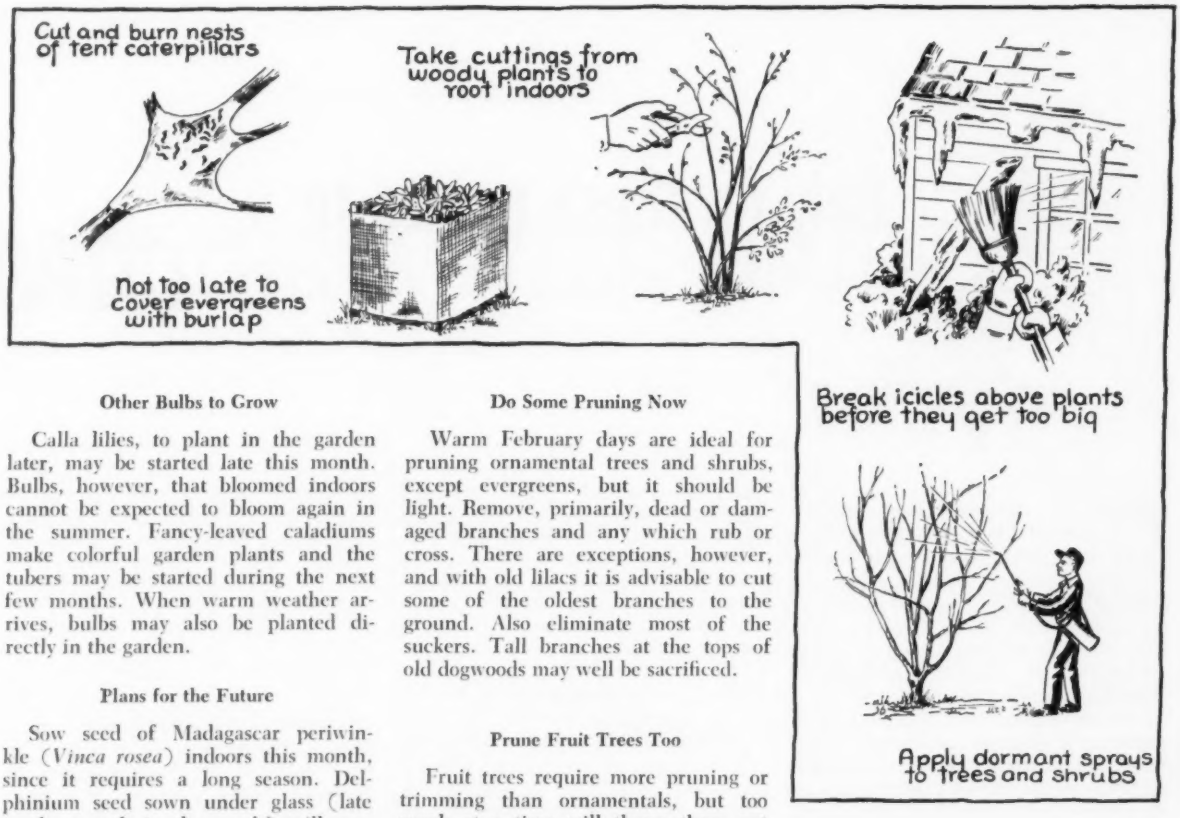
Force Flowering Branches

Sprays of forsythia and pussy willows will expand quickly when forced in water indoors. Crab-apples, flowering almonds, flowering quinces, Korean azalea, flowering cherries and star magnolia are others which can be forced, though they demand more attention. First crush stems with a hammer and insert in deep cool water, out of the sunlight, for a day or two.

Gloxinias for Summer Bloom

Pot gloxinia tubers, keeping the concave side up, and place tops level with surface of soil. Transfer to five-inch pots when two or three leaves have appeared, provide a moist atmosphere and water sparingly until plants come into bloom. Be certain, also, that no water falls on the leaves. Gloxinias may be started from seed this month.





Other Bulbs to Grow

Calla lilies, to plant in the garden later, may be started late this month. Bulbs, however, that bloomed indoors cannot be expected to bloom again in the summer. Fancy-leaved caladiums make colorful garden plants and the tubers may be started during the next few months. When warm weather arrives, bulbs may also be planted directly in the garden.

Plans for the Future

Sow seed of Madagascar periwinkle (*Vinca rosea*) indoors this month, since it requires a long season. Delphinium seed sown under glass (late in the month in the north) will produce flowering plants before the end of summer. Verbenas, salvias, hybrid petunias, and salpiglossis are some annuals that require an early start.

Remember the Birds

Continue to feed the winter birds. Some seed mixtures contain hemp, which chickadees even prefer to sunflower seed. Birds need access to gravel in the winter and must have water. On cold days, they turn instinctively to suet and peanut butter. This is a good time, too, to clean birdhouses and make new ones.

Rest oxalis after flowering

Do Some Pruning Now

Warm February days are ideal for pruning ornamental trees and shrubs, except evergreens, but it should be light. Remove, primarily, dead or damaged branches and any which rub or cross. There are exceptions, however, and with old lilacs it is advisable to cut some of the oldest branches to the ground. Also eliminate most of the suckers. Tall branches at the tops of old dogwoods may well be sacrificed.

Prune Fruit Trees Too

Fruit trees require more pruning or trimming than ornamentals, but too much at a time will throw them out of balance. Keep them headed low and open at the center, and remove suckers, which often result from heavy pruning in previous years. Peach trees need much harder cutting than other kinds, though it is advisable not to undertake heavy pruning of fruit trees on a large scale without consulting a good reference book on the subject.

Time to Prune Grapes

Grapes differ from many fruits because they need very hard pruning, unless vines are grown for shade. Fruit is borne from buds near the base of canes produced the previous year. Therefore, eliminate old wood, but, again, it is advisable to consult a book or pamphlet which illustrates the various ways in which the canes may be trimmed and trained.

Sow Grass On Snow

Thin lawns may be thickened by sowing grass seed on the soft snow. When the snow melts, the seed will be evenly distributed, assuming the ground is reasonably level. Then the natural freezing and thawing of the ground will carry the seed into the soil. If you want to plant clover, wait until spring.

Protect Plants From Sun

Rhododendrons, boxwood and English ivy, often burned by the reflection of the sun from the snow at this season, may be protected with burlap or evergreen branches. However, do not allow the burlap to rest directly on the plants. Tramping the snow around fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs will help protect them from damage by field mice. Trees girdled by rabbits may be saved by bridge-grafting.

Let foliage of crocus ripen

Rely on these plants to . . . CHASE

DO YOU FIND that your garden presents little of interest during the winter months? Do you find that this time of year has little, if any, color to offer? Actually, there are many kinds of plants that you can grow—if you plan in advance—that will be, not only a delight to the eyes, but give your spirit a lift.

Always prominent in the winter garden and landscape are the evergreen trees. All of these provide form and color in varying shades of greens. Evergreens also form a striking contrast for one of the showiest of winter trees, the paper or canoe birch (*Betula papyrifera*), with its glistening white trunk and winged seeds, which are much sought after by the birds. Golden weeping willow (*Salix babylonica aurea*) is cheerful through the winter months.

An effective small tree in the winter is the native striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), so-called for its green and white striped bark. In the spring, the long, drooping yellow-green flower racemes are followed by attractive winged keys, while the large, goosefoot shaped leaves turn yellow in autumn. Moosewood, as this is also called, likes at least part shade.

Our American mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*) holds its spectacular scarlet fruit clusters until spring, birds permitting, but the European mountain ash (*S. aucuparia*) has even larger fruits. Russian olive's (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) silvery yellow fruits on silvery twigs provide food for the birds until March. For sandy soils and along the seashore, the sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) offers bright orange fruits all winter.

There are many tall shrubs, including the witch-hazels, which flower from October to March. Of the natives, the common witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) blooms until winter. Vernal witch-hazel (*H. vernalis*) flowers in February, while the Japanese (*H. japonica*), and Chinese (*H. mollis*) witch-hazels unfold their slender, wavy petals on warm days from January to March. Among the honeysuckles, a variety of Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maacki podocarpa*) carries thick-set sprays of dark red fruits through November, but the true "breath of spring" is the winter honeysuckle (*L. fragrantissima*), which comes out in April.

Among our native deciduous holly, the black alder (*Ilex verticillata*) of swamps, is stripped of its red berries in late winter when other bird food grows scarce. Both this holly and the evergreen American holly, the best of the red-berried kinds for the colder sections of the country, require a male pollinator to set fruit. Our native sumacs, staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) and the smooth sumac (*R. glabra*) keep their crimson spires until summer, but best for autumn color is the flame leaf sumac (*R. copallina*).

Corylus avellana contorta is curious

Of the native viburnums, the American cranberry bush (*Viburnum trilobum*) holds its sour, scarlet fruits until spring, as do the European cranberry bush (*V. opulus*) and the linden viburnum (*V. dilatatum*) of Japan. Coral-berry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), common snowberry (*S. albus*) and the lower growing pink chenault coralberry (*S. chenaulti*) are all valued for their arching, fruit-laden sprays.

Colorful, too, are many of the cotoneasters, including the diels cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster dielsiana*), with red flowers, scarlet fruit and brilliant autumn foliage. Yeddo euonymus (*Euonymus yedoensis*) leads the list for its crimson foliage and its large, hanging clusters of scarlet berries.

Among tall species roses, the Altai Scotch rose (*Rosa spinosissima altaica*) carries dark purple hips until May, but the common Japanese rose (*R. multiflora*) holds its dark red fruit clusters even longer. Betty Bland, a valued Candian hybrid of meadow rose (*R. blanda*), has showy red winter bark, while the lower growing rugosa rose (*Rosa rugosa*) carries large red hips.

The Laland firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea lalandi*), the hardiest of the firethorns, can be trained against walls where its orangey berries will be a source of delight. Fruits of red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) are notably effective through the winter, but valuable as well are the barberries, including evergreen and deciduous kinds. The colorful Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergi*) is gay well into the spring, but there is also an upright form of this, commonly called truehedge columnberry, which makes a hedge that requires little trimming.

Many small evergreens are eligible for use in winter gardens. Dwarf Japanese yew (*Taxus cuspidata nana*) is a pleasing black-green, and many dwarf junipers, which vary from light green through grey and bluish greens to almost blue, can be used. The color of arborvitaes also presents many va-

EVA BEARD, *Woodstock, New York*

AWAY THE WINTER BLUES

riations, but the globose forms are especially well adapted to the small garden. Dwarf Norway spruces make handsome additions, varying from medium to dark green.

The evergreen bigleaf winter-creeper (*Euonymus fortunei vegetus*) has pink and orange berries during the fall and winter, similar to those of our vining native bittersweet, another showy plant during the winter. The bigleaf winter-creeper can be trained to a wall or trimmed as a small bush.

Charming over a low wall are the red winter fruits of rock cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), relished by cedar waxwings, and the rose, Little Compton Creeper, with its red hips. Even the rose arbor may well include such a winter fruiting climber as the dark red-flowering Bloomfield Courage.

Low-growing evergreen shrubs include the rose daphne, which needs protection against the winter sun and wind, and the heathers, which are hardier than the heaths. *Calluna vulgaris alporti* has carmine flowers in late summer, while *C. vulgaris hammondi* is white flowering. The pink coppery heather (*C. vulgaris cuprea*) has light green leaves, which become gold tipped and then bronze.

Among the heaths, the Cornish heath (*Erica vagans*), with purple-red flowers in August and September, and the spring heath (*E. carnea*), with pink or white flowers in early spring, are among the hardiest. Heaths and heathers need a peaty, acid soil, full sun and good drainage.

The box sand-myrtle (*Leiophyllum buxifolium*), to two feet, bears waxy, pink flower clusters in spring. Canby pachistima (*Pachistima canbyi*) is a 12-inch native, used as a ground cover, that bears tiny, reddish flowers in May. The invaluable white-flowering evergreen candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*) is a low evergreen that is commonly grown and used for edgings and low borders. The creeping lily turf (*Liriope spicata*), to 10 inches, follows its sprays of lavender flowers, among evergreen arching leaves, with polished black berries that last the winter.

Other plants include the lavender-flowered winter savory (*Satureia montana*) and the cypress lavender cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*), that grows 20 inches tall, and has silvery-grey, fragrant, year-round foliage and yellow, globular flowers in summer. The dried flower sprays of wide-leaf sea-lavender (*Limonium latifolium*), the silvery pods of honesty or dollar plant (*Lunaria annuua*) and the orange chalices of the lantern ground-cherry (*Physalis francheti*), if allowed to remain through the winter, will play a useful role.

Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*) will unfold creamy, pink and green tinged blooms from November to March, when it will be followed by the purple tinted flowers of the Lenten rose (*H. orientalis*), the earliest crocus, snowdrops, chionodoxas, the winter aconite and the huge pink catkins of varieties of the goat willow (*Salix caprea*), which are known as French pussy willows. By then, it is spring again, and though the winter has passed, the garden has been more colorful than it has been drab.

White bark of birch trees lends a strong note to winter gardens

Exotic Passion Vines for northern gardens

Florence Knock
Minneapolis, Minnesota

IF YOU LIVE where passion vines are not hardy outdoors, you can still grow them in your garden during the summer months. I have been doing this for many years with great success.

This perennial woody vine, native to tropical America, belongs to a large family of plants which includes about 300 species and many hybrids. Noted for their exotic blooms, which vary greatly in color, including blue, pink, yellow, red and white, many also produce edible fruits. Catalogs list a choice number of kinds, particularly the most ornamental, and in addition offer a variety of seeds.

Passion flowers can be propagated by seed or cuttings. Seed is best planted as soon as available, and even then germination will vary from a few weeks to several months. Sow seed in a mixture of sandy loam and compost, with a top seed bed of fine sifted sphagnum moss or vermiculite. Cover to the depth of twice its size and keep moist, with a night temperature above 60° and warmer during the day.

I have had one kind of seed, from Arkansas, that germinated in 10 days and the plants bloomed when six months old in my window. Yet, other seedlings, two-three years old, have not flowered. Several varieties bloom the first year from seed, but if at all possible, it is better to start with rooted cuttings or plants, because they flower sooner.

Cuttings taken from flowering-size vines have always flowered with me the first year, while some even bloom while rooting in water, sand or vermiculite. Cuttings taken during August or early September, before the vines become too woody and the stems hollow, will root quicker, usually forming a thick callus before the sturdy roots develop. When potting plants, the roots should be two to three inches long, but if necessary to pot sooner, cover with a glass or plastic bag to conserve moisture.

I prefer to root cuttings in water, in bottles, in an east window, moving them if the sun gets too hot. Well rooted and potted cuttings need to be cut back as they lengthen to encourage branching. Plants usually bloom all winter, until they are planted out as soon as nights are frost free.

Passion vines, which grow rapidly, are heavy feeders. Add sufficient fertilizer to the potting soil and to the soil in the garden, where vines will grow all summer. In addition, use liquid plant food about every three weeks. In the summer, vines may also be grown in large pots outdoors, though they will need frequent watering during the hottest months. Also protect from excessive heat and provide trellises to which the tendrils may cling.

Until now, I have grown a dozen kinds of passion vines and eight have bloomed. Now I am eagerly looking forward to blooms on my seedlings, especially one from the Canal Zone, said to be red, and a pink from South Africa.

In my collection, *Passiflora alato-caerulea,* a hybrid between the blue *P. caerulea* and the pink *P. alata,* has the showiest and largest flowers, with some measuring four and one-half

See page 86

Passiflora caerulea

TOM GOULD PHOTOS

Passiflora alato-caerulea

Tropical Plants

Dr. William T. Carleton
Worcester, Massachusetts

I Grow in My Greenhouse

My interest in plants began during the war years I spent in the Hawaiian Islands. There, my wife and I admired hibiscus, plumerias, bougainvilleas, gingers, heliconias, anthuriums and bird-of-paradise and thought it would be much fun if we could grow them too.

In 1950, we purchased an old house with enough land for a greenhouse. We decided on lean-to type because our lot is irregular and contains numerous shade trees, which would have made an isolated greenhouse difficult to place. We also felt that a lean-to type would be easier to care for during the winter because of its direct access to the house.

An east-southeast exposure was the best we had and in the summer of 1951 we built a small lean-to, measuring 10 by 12 feet on the ground and nine feet at the eave where it joins the house.

The hot water heating system has fin radiation taken from the household furnace. An individual circulator and thermostatic control operates independently of the requirements of the house, and there is an overhead ventilating light with two ventilating lights on the front. Now it is apparent that it would be better to have ventilating lights on the end, as well, to give cross circulation.

Humidity is furnished by a large fan, blown over a pan of water and regulated by a humidistat. This type of humidifier is effective and very important in such a small-sized house. It furnishes a draught, which keeps the air in circulation and spreads a fine mist through the house.

During the summer, the biggest problem is overheating from the sun. Obviously, with such a low overhead, there is not enough room for the cushion of air to expand and the heat throughout often hovers around 90° F. To provide shade, we cover the glass on the outside with an orchid cloth, which is much easier than using whitewash or other materials that are sprayed on the glass.

In hot spells, plants naturally dry out more readily. Watering is more frequent and we syringe our plants with a hose almost every day and give them a thorough soaking two or three times a week, which keeps the humidity at about 40 percent.

The problem of overheating during the summer is aided somewhat by the location of our greenhouse, since the sun does not strike it until after two o'clock because of the shadow of the house. Overhead ventilators are run on automatic controls, set to open when the inside temperature reaches 70° F. On the other hand, during the winter, the night temperature is set at 55° and the day at 70°.

Benches are three feet wide and are placed along the north and east sides of the house. The southern side is left free for plants set in the ground. In addition, there are several shelves and places for hanging pots.

Once the greenhouse was completed, the next step was to find suitable plants to grow in it. We started with many kinds of begonias, jasmines, aeschynanthus, lasiandras, plumbagos, fragrant geraniums, hibiscus, bougainvilleas, allamandas, clerodendrons, camel-

See page 110

Dr. Carleton likes to grow orchids

MARVIN RICHMOND PHOTOS

The author's small home greenhouse is a lean-to type

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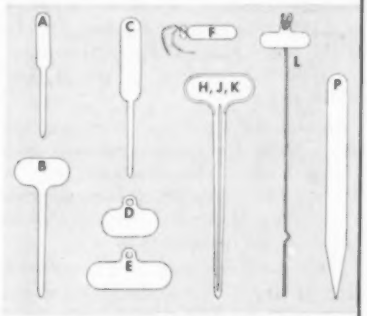

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Exotic Passion Vines

From page 84

inches across. The blooms have sepals that are white or shaded pink, rose-pink petals and a purple-blue fringe, with a circle of dotted white. The single fringe, sturdy and pointed, has a distinctly elegant and formal appearance, while three maroon filament fences about the standard add daintiness. Pleasingly fragrant, like other varieties, it keeps well for weeks in a dish of water or in the refrigerator. The vine has three-lobed foliage.

P. caerulea is the most generous bloomer, and my plant even kept blooming when the temperature dropped to 29°F. Blooms are three and one-half inches across and fragrant. They have greenish-white sepals, with spines at the tips and white petals. The rays of the corona, in two series or whorls, are blue at the tip and white in the middle, shading to deep maroon toward the column. Its foliage, shiny and leathery in appearance, has five slender lobes.

Foliage Is Mottled

P. coriacea has five petals and no sepals. The one and one-half-inch twin flowers are a pleasing golden-yellow, while the golden fence around the stalk encloses a maroon floor, giving the flower a rich coloring. The foliage, mottled with off-white, is unusual, suggesting a bat in flight, hence this vine has been dubbed "batleaf". Cuttings of this species root easily and often bloom in water.

P. trifasciata is sometimes confused with *P. maculifolia,* because the two have colorful variegated foliage. It, however, has leaves that are three-lobed to one-third their depth, with irregular rose-pink bands along each midrib, shading to silver or other hues, depending on the light. The undersides are wine-red. I kept a cutting in water a long time and all the leaves became pure pink. Flowers are described as yellowish (mine are pure white) and one and three-quarters inches across, with petals recurved.

P. violacea, perhaps the daintiest, suggests "lavender and old lace". The three and one-half-inch flowers, a rich violet-lavender, have filaments that have curled tips, thus eliminating any stiff appearance. Petals and sepals are flushed violet, though the three sepals are tipped with small green balls, the size of a radish seed, in place of the spines that other varieties have. Flowers are fragrant and foliage

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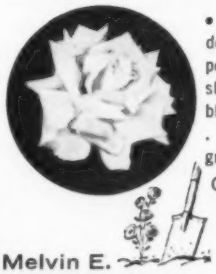

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is three-lobed and more slender than others, with a five-inch, pointed lobe. This vine has been hardy in Minneapolis for many years, growing near the foundation of the house.

P. edulis, commonly called purple granadilla, has two and one-half-inch white flowers. It has a blue-violet ring near the center stalk, a crimped fringe and recurved petals. The foliage is large, three-lobed, with wavy edges and the largest lobe measuring eight inches long. The fruit is edible, though there is little pulp because seeds occupy most of the interior.

P. byronoides is different in several respects. Its seeds germinated well and the seedlings bloomed the first year. Each also set its one-inch green fruit, ripening to purple-black, with orange colored ripened seed.

Passiflora edulis

In the garden, passion vines will grow in sunny locations in light, loamy, well drained soil. They will also thrive in other soils that are not too heavy, but when setting out plants, add plenty of leafmold or peatmoss to the soil. After all danger of frost is past is the time to plant them in the open ground.

Since hardiness varies with the species and the area of the country, it is well to check with local horticulturists regarding the hardiness of the kind you want to plant. Otherwise, plants can be treated as annuals in the garden and wintered from cuttings taken in August. Rooted in water, sand or vermiculite and potted when sufficient roots have developed, cuttings will even begin to flower in December.

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Here's the Story On The . . .

1958 All-America Vegetables

W. Ray Hastings, *Executive Secretary, All-America Selections*

Thanks to improved breeding techniques, every year we can look forward to new and better vegetables. The year 1958 is outstanding in this respect.

Today, many favorite vegetable varieties, some introduced only a few years ago, are being replaced by heavier bearing and more vigorous and disease-resistant kinds. Machine harvesting, pre-cooling, refrigeration and better packing methods all help to allay the quick change of natural sugars of ripened fruits to tasteless starch.

In general, the only really fresh vegetables come from the home garden. As a rule, the tender and flavorful home garden varieties will not withstand machine picking, rough handling and commercial shipping or processing. To get the best and have them fresh, it is necessary to grow your own.

The most meritorious of the new vegetables are the All-America Selections. Since the demand for them during the first year is greater than the supply, it is advisable to order seed as early as possible. Honored as All-America Selections for the year 1958 are mustard Green Wave, beet Ruby Queen, lettuce Ruby and snapbeans Pearlgreen and Choctaw Wax.

Mustard Green Wave, a fancy, curled variety for use as a boiling green, lasts longer in the garden than other varieties. Tangy, with a flavor of their own, tender mustard greens may be used alone or mixed with turnip, kale, spinach, beet tops and other greens.

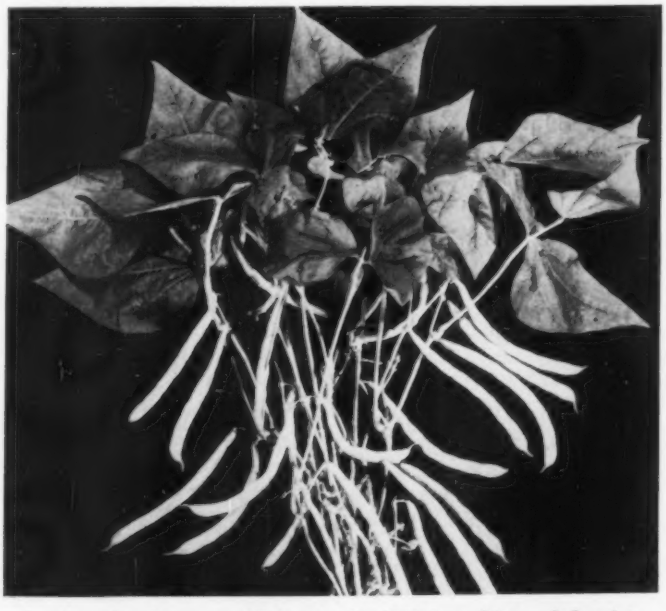
The new all-purpose Ruby Queen beet is an early globe-shaped variety, with short, dark green tops that may be used as greens alone or with Green Wave mustard. For slicing, canning or pickling, Ruby Queen is outstanding for its fine grained, solid red interior. It is also a heavy producer of good quality and flavor.

Ruby Lettuce, an extra fancy red salad lettuce, is noted for its ruffled and curled leaves of richest bronzy-red, a color that holds even in heat and drought, something new to lettuce. A loose header, it may take the place of red cabbage in salads, though its leaves should be used when young.

The "meat" of the vegetable garden is the bean. Of the two new snapbeans, Pearlgreen is the first white seeded variety of Tendergreen, the most popular of all beans. Stringless and fiberless, it has top quality for all purposes, and if eaten while fresh and tender, the round, nearly straight pods are superlative. Vigorous plants are productive, and pods, which are easy to pick, may be used for canning or quick freezing. Since Pearlgreen has white seeds, any surplus may be left to mature for dry shell beans.

Choctaw Wax snapbean, one of the heaviest yellow or wax podded beans,

Beet variety Ruby Queen



Snapbean Pearlgreen, an All-America for 1958, is a white seeded variety

is stringless and practically fiberless at the tender eating stage. Choctaw Wax seems destined to replace the previous winning Cherokee Wax as the heaviest producer, whether for garden or commercial use. Long, oval pods are straight and attractive.

In addition to the All-America Selections, there are several other worthwhile introductions. Greenbud broccoli, a new strain of De Cicco, matures in about 60 days. A deep green in color, it has a large central head and a number of side sprouts suitable for quick-freezing. It performs well for spring, summer or fall cropping.

Gold Crest sweet corn is an early hybrid variety of good flavor and yield. Recommended particularly for short season areas, plants grow about five feet tall, are tolerant to Stewart's wilt and produce mostly 12-rowed ears, seven to eight inches long. Honey Sweet hybrid sweetcorn, bred for high sugar content, is a home garden variety where tenderness and flavor are more important than tall stalks and big ears.

Honeycross is larger, with 16-rowed ears, eight to nine inches long. Somewhat later, its deep kernels have quality and flavor. Another quality home garden sweetcorn, Honey and Cream, has six-inch, 12-rowed ears.

New Hybrid Popcorn

Peppy is a new hybrid popcorn, producing two and three four-inch ears to the stalk. White kernels, pointed and free from hulls, pop well and are larger than Japanese hull-less.

There are several new strains of the previous winning Great Lakes lettuce. Grandeverde Great Lakes, meaning "big green", makes sizable heads during colder weather, while Oroverde Great Lakes, meaning "green gold", heads a few days earlier.

Great Lakes Phoenix Strain, an earlier G. L. 659 strain, is darker green and more heat and tipburn resistant. These are largely commercial shipping strains, but may be useful in home gardens for heat tolerance and resistance to tipburn.

Salad King endive, a long-standing fancy curled variety, requires about 95 days to mature. It blanches well and has a deep heart and leaves with deeply cut margins. Ribs are green and fleshy.

Dixie Market spinach, resistant to blue-mold, is a savory-leaved variety intended largely for the south. Since it bolts quickly to seed, it is not recommended for late spring and summer planting in the north. The slowest bolting, most satisfactory home garden spinach is the variety America, the 1952 All-America winner.

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Glads Are A Favorite

From page 73

Possessing all the desirable characteristics of their larger relatives, their flowers last from two to four days, while individual spikes, which open to the tip, remain attractive for a week to 10 days.

Colors of the small varieties range from pure white to deep blue-black. Their form, too, includes plain ruffled, lacinated, grotesquely horned and spurred florets. Thus, gardeners may choose from an extensive list of varieties, according to color and size, that have been tested throughout the United States and Canada.

To enjoy a long blooming season, select corms of varying sizes. Large ones bloom two weeks ahead of medium-sized corms, while smaller sizes take from four to six weeks longer to bloom than the large. By planting large, medium and small corms, it is a simple matter to have continuous bloom.

Problems of Thrips

Although gladiolus are rather free from insects, thrips, a serious pest, mars the foliage and blooms. If present in large numbers, they will even destroy the flowering spikes. DDT and malathion will give excellent control if plants are sprayed regularly during the growing season, from late April to early May until flowering time.

Water is essential for good growth. Gladiolus are great water consumers, so soak the ground deeply every two or three days during dry periods. At planting time, place fertilizer beneath the corms, using a 5-10-10 combination, plus bonemeal, at the rate of a cup per 10 feet of row. Be certain to place an inch of soil over the fertilizer so that the corms will not be injured and the tender roots will not be burned.

In the fall, when the leaves turn yellow and brown, lift the corms and remove tops. Then, dry in a warm room for several days until the old corms will pull away easily. After discarding the old corms, which are dark and shriveled, dust the new ones with 5% DDT and store in a cool place, at 40-50° F., in open boxes.

Here are varieties, listed according to height, size and color, so you can make selections to suit your needs.

First, there is one All-America Selection for 1958, a variety called Emperor a purple, with an ermine white throat, developed by Carl Fischer and Ralph Baerman.

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Polar Bear—white
Lorelei—cream
Garden Gold—yellow
A. B. Coutts—buff
Salmon Queen—deep salmon
Firecracker—scarlet
Boudoir—deep pink
Hades—black red
Burma—light rose
Salman's Sensation—deep violet
Copper Lustre—smoky

Large Varieties

(Florets 4½ to 5¼"—Height 48 to 60")

Sierra Snow—white
Appleblossom—cream
Prospector—yellow
Patrol—buff
Fire Opal—orange
Polynesia—light salmon
Spic and Span—deep pink
Red Charm—deep red
Innocence—light rose
Valor—salmon
Violet Charm—light violet
Gunsmoke—smoky

Medium Varieties

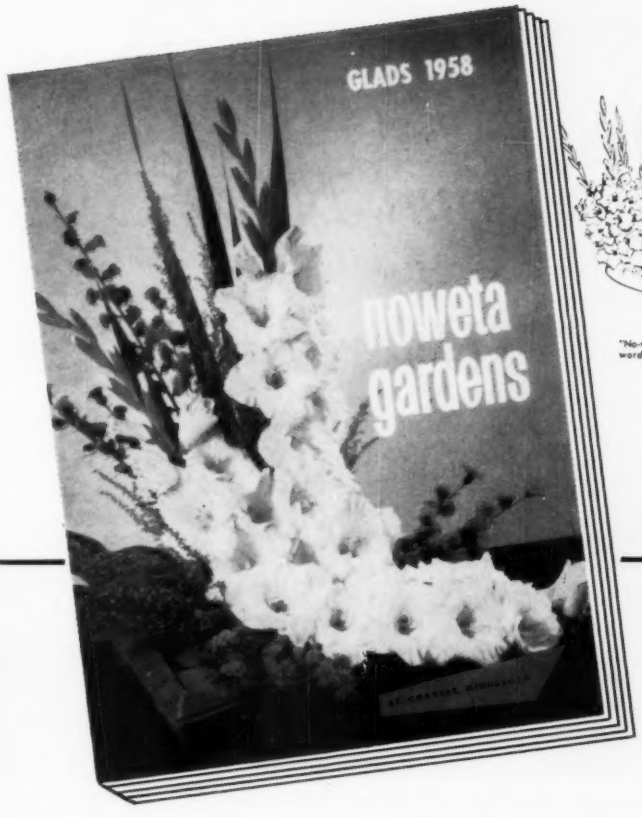
(Florets 3½" to 4¼"—Height 36 to 48")

L'Esperance—white
Ares—cream
Golden Boy—yellow
Tigertone—orange
Melodie—deep salmon
Kerry Dancer—scarlet
Roseneath—deep pink
Negus—black red
Rose Charm—light rose
Seneca—lavender
Caribbean—light violet
Abu Hassen—deep violet

Small and Miniature

(Florets 1 to 3¼"—Height 18 to 36")

Polar Cub—white
Lucille—cream
Statuette—yellow
Flicker—orange
Zig Zag—scarlet
Nadia—salmon
Atom—light red
Aria—rose
Parma Violet—violet
Old South—smoky
Bambi—green



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LOUELLA UBER

Upland, California

Brand New Hybrid Tropical Waterlilies

TROPICAL WATERLILIES have a peculiar fascination and beauty all their own. This fascination was felt by Martin E. Randig of San Bernardino, California, who has recently developed a new strain of hybrid tropical waterlilies that are outstanding for their size, color, leaf patterns and productiveness of blooms.

Actually, Mr. Randig, who has always been absorbed in his search for different and almost unattainable colors in waterlilies, has approached his hybridizing in an extremely methodical manner. He knows, for example, exactly how each of his named varieties has been developed and is even able to duplicate the procedure. With him haphazardness has never been his method.

Mr. Randig's patience is demonstrated by the fact that it took him 20 years to produce one particular waterlily. By 1931, he had produced a number of new hybrids, including the now famous, Mrs. Martin E. Randig, a deep blue. Then, in 1936, came Golden West, the world's first apricot. A talisman to light orange, developed in 1938, was named for General MacArthur, while Trail Blazer and Yellow Dazzler, later creations, are included in the collection of yellow and talisman colored hybrids, dating from 1938 through 1946. His dream now is to develop a true dark orange tropical.

From 1935 to 1940, Martin Randig won many outstanding awards at the Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona, California, but his achievements as a hybridizer were recognized further when he won the Award of Merit at Treasure Island, when the World's Fair was held in San Francisco in 1940. His displays included six day blooming and two night blooming tropicals.

After that, this great plantsman devoted all his time to the waterlilies in three acres of pools and to other nursery work, encompassed within 6000 square feet of glass houses. After World War II, when he withdrew from his work with plants to engage in the war effort, he resumed business on a smaller scale and entered several displays at the San Diego and the Los Angeles County Fairs, that never failed to attract much attention.

Among his outstanding varieties is Evelyn Randig, a deep magenta rose, with unusual deep green leaves that are spotted and striped with chestnut ruffled edges. Despite its attractive flower, many gardeners seek this variety for the foliage alone.

Red Flare, a night bloomer, is also outstanding, and one month after it was planted in an outdoor pool in Upland, California, it showed five buds. This is unusual for a night bloomer, since waterlilies in this group usually take about three months to get started and then usually have one to three buds at a time.

Margaret Randig, a rich dark blue, has broad petaled flowers, which open wide and full, and large, deep green leaves that have freckles. Another favorable characteristic of this plant is its vigorous growth. Mr. Randig classifies this fragrant tropical waterlily as his best.

Mrs. Martin E. Randig, developed in 1931, has deep cobalt blue flowers that have dark rose-pink sepals. Buds are deep green, while leaves, green on top, have bronzy-red undersides. This variety is also fragrant.

Trail Blazer, a dark starry yellow, is a prolific bloomer. Deep green leaves on vigorous plants have a pink undertone.

Yellow Dazzler, a rich deep yellow, opens out flat, thus creating a different appearance.

Afterglow, developed in 1946, has flowers that range from deep talisman to orange and deep green leaves with a pink undertone. This fragrant variety is adapted to small and large pools.

Leading Lady has large, multipetaled, peach-pink blooms, which by

Turn to page 108

A home garden pool need not be large

Trail Blazer is the name of this new hybrid waterlily that will add sparkle to any home garden pool

Evelyn Randig, a rich, glowing, rose-red variety, has spotted leaves that are decorative in themselves

PLAN NOW to make room for *Perennials*

MARY C. SECKMAN, *Clarksburg, West Virginia*

IN MY GARDEN, perennials are an ever-recurring joy. Each spring, after the bleak and barren months of winter, the new shoots of tender green and bronze and red that push through cold, wet soil are a delight.

Not all perennials are infallible. More than a few may fail to live up to their name and be truly perennial. Although a much heralded newcomer may not thrive or even perform equally well in different climates and locations, it should not be condemned. Each kind has been bred and grown in soil and climate that meet its requirements, and this does not mean that it will adapt itself elsewhere.

How should perennials be selected? To me, the approach can be made from two avenues. Is it better to be content with only the rugged and truly perennial, which can be counted on to grow, bloom and live over winter year after year? Or is it more stimulating to grow the old reliables and to experiment and broaden one's experience by trying what is appealing, hoping that they will be dependable for many years? I personally prefer the second approach.

Experimenting with novelties has given me much pleasure, valuable experience and a broader knowledge of plants in general. Naturally, numerous failures have been inevitable. Some of the perennials I have tried have done well for a season and have then disappeared. Others have lingered, perhaps for a year or two.

At first I felt distressed and frustrated by these defeats. Then it seemed wiser and certainly easier to adopt a philosophical attitude and enjoy those which survived. I also refused to be too dismayed by failures.

At the top of my list of enduring perennials is the peony, which can be expected to last for more than a generation. From the first bright red shoots—a certain sign that spring is on its way—to the gold and bronze autumn foilage, the peony is decorative.

Hundreds of new varieties are available, but many older kinds, not too expensive, are always worthwhile, including Kelway's Glorious, Le Cygne (The Swan), Baroness Schroeder and the white Festiva Maxima. Among pinks, I prefer the more delicate Therese, Mons. Jules Elie, Martha Bulloch and Walter Faxon. For red, my choice is for Longfellow.

For numerous gardeners, the daylily is at the top of the list, certainly when it comes to dependability. When selecting varieties, visit nurseries or gardens when plants are in bloom, since there are kinds with small or large blooms and others that are dwarf or tall. The blooming period ranges from May through frost, and colors include the popular frosty yellows, rich gold, golden orange, orange, bronze, tan, apricot, peach, pink, red and red purple.

The tall bearded iris is another indispensable perennial. Colors vary greatly, and new varieties have improved so that the blooms can stand up in spring storms and still remain decorative. Stalks are also stronger and better able to support larger flowers.

There are many kinds of lesser perennials, which can be used as fillers. Some that I grow include yarrow or achillea Golden Plate, one of the toughest and most long lasting for sunny places. Bold, brassy "plates" of gold cover the tops of gray-green plants, a color that can be used with white, though it needs careful placement.

Bee-balm or monarda is so vigorous it may need to be controlled in some locations. Variety Cambridge Scarlet, with ragged flower heads of vivid scarlet, will lure insects and humming-

See page 99

A wide border of perennials is one of the garden's most attractive features

Rex Begonias

Make Good House Plants

VIRGINIA WITHEE
Coventry Center, Rhode Island

MANY HOUSE PLANT fanciers believe that rex begonias can be grown successfully only in the greenhouse, conservatory or a specially built sun-room. Actually, this is not so, for my 35 varieties and several plants of other types of begonias are flourishing under house conditions.

Although begonias have certain basic requirements I do not find their culture at all difficult. With me, results are almost always gratifying. Their special needs include the proper soil, temperature, humidity, soil moisture and ventilation, which are easily provided with a little thought.

Before I started to grow the rex and other types, I had for some time been growing the calla lily begonia. Plants were large, medium and small in size, depending on age. Since I rarely lost one, I decided to try other types, which proved to be a rewarding decision.

First, last fall, I started with rex varieties, including King Edward, Mrs. Frevert, Pearl Hume, President Carnot, Helen Teupel, Cardoza Gardens and Fireflush or Baron Rothschild. I read what I could find concerning their care, which is rather limited.

I also had to do some of my own reasoning and develop a routine method of care. Two systems, one for the winter months and one for the summer months—there is a difference—were worked out. In the winter, I never let the temperature get above 75° F. during the day or 65° at night.

Ventilation is very important, as fresh air circulating about the plants does not allow botrytis or other diseases to develop. Hence, I open the windows throughout the house, about a third of the way down, for 10 to 15 minutes, some five or six times a day. By opening from the top, drafts are avoided. I also give my begonias full sun during the winter, often placing

GENEREUX PHOTOS

Rex begonia variety above is Lavender Glow. Upper right is the dwarf Little Pet and below it Fairy

those from more shaded windows into the sun for a period of time.

A moist atmosphere is necessary for healthy growth. I provide humidity for my plants by keeping a tea kettle simmering on the stove, though my routine cooking also helps. Pots placed on shallow trays filled with gravel,

Variety Merry Christmas

which are kept constantly moist, will also provide humidity. I might add I have 26 begonia plants of all types, especially rex, in my kitchen alone.

Sufficient moisture for a begonia is a must, for without it plants are never at their best. If not properly fed, plants become stunted.

I keep all of my begonias moist at all seasons. Otherwise, the tender feeding roots become dry and the shock dries out the plant and sets it back. Then, too, when watering, I always use water at about room temperatures, thus avoiding a chilling shock to the roots. The soil is thoroughly soaked and allowed to drain well, and when it is dry to the touch, I apply more water. I never water from the top only.

Begonias need plenty of root room and are happiest when they can spread their roots out in lush leafmold. When crowded into an under-sized pot, they lack stamina for the want of moisture. Pot-bound plants do not grow properly and usually lose their leaves. I repot mine, three or four times a year, always using a pot two sizes larger than the previous size.

For sturdy, compact growth and short-stemmed leaves that are not spindly, place plants in a bright, sunny window. Soil is a definite demand and I use leafmold, collected by the pailful from the woods. It is sifted and mixed with sand, old cow manure and charcoal to make an ideal potting medium for my established plants. For my young plants I use only the pure leafmold.

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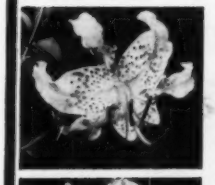

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Make Room For Perennials

From page 95

birds in midsummer, but also attractive is Croftway Pink, though it is not so invasive.

Phlox is a necessary adjunct of the midsummer garden, requiring little care except water during dry periods. There are many new varieties with larger florets and flower heads that should be considered. Elizabeth Arden, a favorite, is salmon-pink, White Admiral has large florets and flower heads and Brigadier is rose to cerise-red.

Baby's-breath or gypsophila Rosy Veil has large flowers which last well, though Bristol Fairy Perfect is considered a distinct improvement over the older type. Do not overlook, of course, coral-bells or heuchera for edging, including such variations as The Rocket, vermilion scarlet, Ibis, carmine-rose, and French White, which grows only 18 inches tall.

Clethra loosestrife grows in shade

For background color in July and August there is the sturdy heliopsis Summer Gold and the rugged tireless globe thistle or echinops Taplow Blue, which has tiny florets of bright blue in round balls that flower arrangers like to gather and dry.

Useful, too, are the spikes of the loosestrifes or lythrums, including newer varieties like Robert, rose pink, Morden Pink and Morden Gleam, deep rose-red, with bronze foliage in spring. New hybrid veronicas also supply quantities of showy spikes for summer and fall cutting. Try Pink Spire, deep pink, Icicle, white, Minuet, rose-pink, as well as *Veronica holophylla*, a rich deep blue that is noted for its leath-

See page 105

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AU PETIT NAVIRE, the garden at Marshall's Point at Cape Porpoise in Maine didn't look like much of anything in the early autumn of 1954.

Improperly planted around a ledge were herbaceous peonies, bearded iris, Darwin tulips and other unsuitable plants. At the long side of the cottage a rectangular plot was enclosed on two sides by low stone walls and the entrance was through a hedge of rank rugosa roses. No more than a glance was needed to realize that none of the plants were worth salvaging.

Beyond there is the sea

The work began with clearing away the rubbish around the outcropping of rock at the left front of the door of the cottage. Later a terrace was laid from the edge of the rock to the small open porch and rock plants were inserted in crevices near the granite ledge to unite the whole. Steps were introduced where the slope fell away and matching rock was found to make pockets for planting.

In the rock gardens, plants were set out in masses for greater effect. Soft colors of moss phlox, aubrieta and gold alyssum, with masses of pink and white arabis, were used.

In summer, pinks or dianthus take over, literally by the hundreds, in the terraces, along borders in the rose garden and throughout the rock gardens.

GENEREUX PHOTOS

Rock plants and geraniums in pots are colorful all season long

Around the ledges, low evergreens and shrubs give feeling of permanence.

A formal garden evolved in the enclosed plot. Here espalier apple trees are trained on the wall of the white cottage and between them the blue clematis Mrs. Robert Bryden climbs the pergola. At the rear the blossoms of clematis Mme. Baron-Veillard complement the occasional amethyst panes in the cottage windows and grape vines furnish shade in the pergola.

Other clematis planted include the blue Mrs. Cholmondeley, which frames the lower gate, and the pure pink Comtesse de Bouchaud, which is used against the house.

Over the entrance, the white climbing rose Prosperity blooms the summer through and grouped below is floribunda rose Summer Show. The effect is carried to the lower gate with the hybrid tea rose White Wings, a lovely single rose, and clumps of the lower growing Fashion are used here with masses of Newport Pink sweet william, an exact salmon-pink match.

The ends of this garden are comparatively short and to give a feeling of greater size and distance white flowers predominate. In spring, there are white and cream daffodils, white hyacinths and tall Darwin tulips, used in the curves of the serpentine hedge of clipped yew.

Perennials that give a succession of bloom fill the borders in summer. Strains of Pacific hybrid delphiniums in darkest purple through blue and white, the new Astolot strain of pink delphiniums, white and dark purple bearded and Siberian iris, white Japanese iris, white, mahogany and rose Oriental poppies and chrysanthemums for autumn bloom are some of the perennials that give continuous color.

Recently, the grass in the formal garden was removed and the area was paved to create a greater unity and feeling of space. A garden of roses, primarily for cutting, is located behind

the cottage. Its design is that of half a hexagon, with a tall picket fence at the back to cut off the winds from the sea. Here many kinds of roses are grown, including climbers on the fence, hybrid teas, floribundas, hybrid perpetuals and old-fashioned types.

The little wood beyond the wall, at first a thicket of poplars, white spruce

Pot plants are used on porch

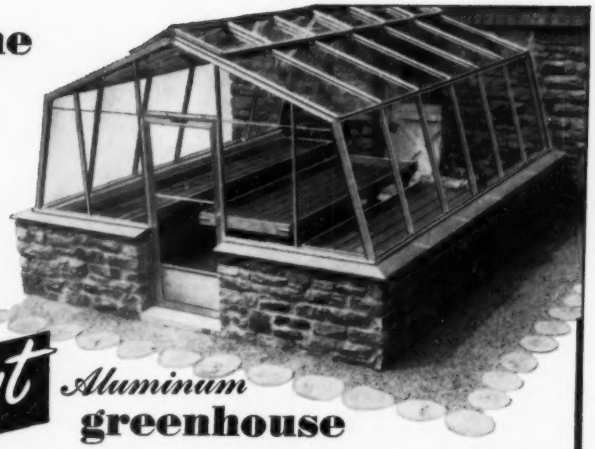
and shadbush, has been replaced by several white birches. Planted there are ferns and many wild flowers, such as trilliums, arbutus, hepaticas, lady's slippers, foam-flower and other desirable natives, with the idea of developing the area into a wild garden.

Recently added was a cutting garden of annuals and perennials. Surrounded by a high fence to keep out strong winds, a willow in one corner affords shade, while a paved area, with a table and chair provides a place to rest and arrange flowers. Here peonies are established. Tulip bulbs from other years and many annuals furnish flowers for Mrs. Foster Whitney and Miss Viola Kneeland, the owners.

At the back of the cottage, a porch is recessed between the wings, where the windows of the living-room face the sea. Window boxes are filled with pure white geraniums to match the white capped waves and blue lobelia that hangs toward the windows. The porch at the front is picturesque, with its pots of ivies, scented geraniums and tuberous begonias in shade.

At "Au Petit Navire" a summer's day is filled with the song of birds. With nothing to fear the warblers fly down at one's feet and in the autumn woodcocks scratch in the leaves in the little wood. Beyond the sea wall, the waves flow past in endless surge to break on the beach at Goose Rock. Here quietness and beauty—and the excitement of the everpresent sea—reign supreme through all the seasons of the year.

Imagine what you could grow in this



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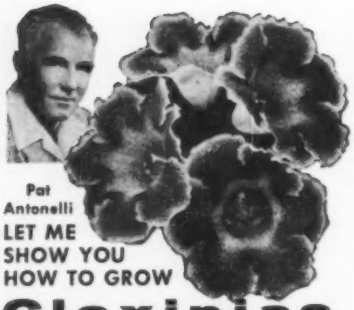
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Grow Rock Garden Plants

From page 77

laurel, placed far enough back so as not to shade the smaller plants.

Before selecting the plants, it is helpful to divide the garden into four sections—upper shady, lower shady, upper sunny and lower sunny. In the upper shady section you can use tall native woodland material. Perhaps you may be planning a rock garden in shade, and if so, the following are some of taller plants you can grow.

Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)—This will grow in moist soil or in ordinary soil if not allowed to dry out.

Great lobelia (*Lobelia syphilitica*)—Similar to above, except blue.

Fairy wand (*Chamaelirium luteum*)—Usually listed as white, but actually ivory, it requires rich soil and moisture. Grows two feet.

Yellow lady's-slipper (*Cypripidium calceolus pubescens*)—Easiest of the native cypripedium orchids. Provide pocket of deep rich leafmold.

Hyacinth bletilla (*Bletilla hyacinthina*)—Another terrestrial orchid, in rose purple, with as many as 10 flowers on one stem.

Epimidiums in variety—In white, red and yellow, they grow easily.

Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)—A familiar spring flower, whose height may be controlled by richness of soil and moisture content.

Celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*)—A worthwhile plant, growing about 15 inches, with yellow flowers and grayish leaves.

Maple-leaf glaudicium (*Glaucidium palmatum*)—A Japanese plant, with lavender poppy-like flowers. Give equal parts leafmold, peatmoss and sand.

Blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)—Lavender-blue to about 15 inches.

Creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*)—This familiar phlox has many named forms, such as Pink Ridge, Blue Ridge, and Grandiflora.

Oconee bells (*Shortia galacifolia*)—Grow in full or part shade in rich, acid leafmold. White bells appear on six-inch stems.

In the lower shady section of the garden, or where low growing plants for shady rock gardens are desired, the following may be tried.

Polyantha primrose (*Primula polyantha*)—easiest of primroses. Flowers in many colors appear in dense umbels.

Julia primrose (*Primula juliane*)—A tiny dwarf with small leaves and loose flower clusters on six-inch stems.

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Cuthbertia graminea—Bright, pink-3-petaled flowers on four to six-inch stems among grass-like leaves.

Yellow corydalis (*Corydalis lutea*)—A true rock plant, whose roots must be under or alongside a rock. Medium yellow flowers above lacy foliage.

Siebold sedum (*Sedum sieboldi*)—though recommended for hot, dry, exposed situations, for me it does well on a large stone in mottled shade.

Sedum cauticolum—This one may be taken for a miniature *S. sieboldi*, though its flowers are deeper in shade and appear two or three weeks earlier.

Box-huckleberry (*Gaylussacia brachysera*)—An excellent, slow growing evergreen that makes a ground cover shrub not over six inches high.

Checker-berry (*Gaultheria procumbens*)—Another evergreen ground cover, with white pink-tinted flowers.

In the upper sunny garden, there are many kinds of taller plants, not over 18 inches high, to grow.

Spring adonis (*Adonis vernalis*)—One of earliest to bloom in spring, with golden flowers.

Stone-cresses or aethionemas—Relatives of the iberis or candytuft, not reliably hardy without some winter protection. Space 18 inches apart, give gritty, limy soil.

Catchflies or silenes—Some of best rock plants, including fire pink silene (*Silene virginica*), red; wild pink (*S. caroliniana*) rose; and alpine catchfly (*S. alpestris*), white.

White fringed bleeding-heart (*Dicentra eximia alba*)—Provide good winter drainage.

Mayflower rhododendron (*Rhododendron recemosum*)—Probably most dependable, from hardiness standpoint, of all dwarf rhododendrons.

Roses—Dwarf roses are popular for rock garden use.

Junipers—Variety Bar Harbor is my favorite. Has steel blue foliage.

Mountain pieris (*Pieris floribunda*)—Evergreen leaves and spikes of white flowers. May be kept at desired height.

Ground hebe (*Hebe decumbens*)—Grayish evergreen shrub from New Zealand, with small white flowers.

In the lower sunny garden, many kinds of diminutives and low growing rock plants can be grown. Because there are so many in this group, let us divide them according to color.

See next page

The Torch Azalea

Pinkshell Azalea

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Grow Rock Garden Plants

From previous page

White Flowering Kinds

Rock candytuft (*Iberis saxatilis*)—Small evergreen, two inches high.

Iberis pygmaea. Less vigorous than the above, otherwise identical.

Kellerer rock-cress (*Arabis kellereri*)—Small forming, slow growing mat plant for rock crevices.

Rock plants soften these steps

Pyrenees thrift (*Armeria juniperifolia*)—Forms dense evergreen tufts.

Campanula cochlearifolia alba—Place roots near a stone.

White cup-flower (*Nierembergia rivularis*)—Plant in spring with roots against a rock. Needs frequent watering in dry weather.

Tufted evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*)—Tap rooted plant requiring deep drainage in poor soil.

Phlox subulata schneewitchen—Small, dense mats of spiny gray-green.

Veronica rupestris nana alba—Small four-inch spikes.

Those With Blue Flowers

Campanula cochlearifolia—Place roots near a stone.

Moss phlox variety G. F. Wilson—Rather fast growing pale blue variety.

Veronica rupestris nana and *V. spicata nana*—Provide fairly rich soil.

Veronica trehanii—Blue flowers above bright yellow leaves.

Birds-foot violet (*Viola pedata*) and lilac birds-foot violet (*V. pedata linariloba*)—Poor, acid soil.

Penstemon coloradoensis—one of easier penstemons, with grayish foliage and lavender-blue flowers.

Some of the Yellows

Drabas—Small cushion forming plant, easily handled.

Tulipa tarda—Best of small, wild, yellow tulips. Provide good drainage.

Hairy cinquefoil (*Potentilla villosa*)—An Alaskan with grayish foliage, perfectly at home here.

Narcissus—Among dwarfs for rock garden are *Narcissus minor, N. minimus, N. juncifolius* and *N. bulbicodium.*

Crocus—Among species are *Crocus aureusan* and *C. chrysanthus.*

Gold-beard iris (*Iris flavissima*)—Small sand iris, about four inches.

Try Some Red and Pink

Moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*)—Varieties, include Alexander's Pink, Britton Pink and Vivid.

Armeria caespitosa rosea—Allow room to spread and give lime.

Scarlet globe-mallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*)—Not too easy to establish.

Androsace sarmentosa—Forms carpets of silvery rosettes.

Alpine liver balsam (*Erinus alpinus*)—Small bun-like plant, not reliably hardy, though it re-seeds moderately. Grow in tight crevices.

Pinks or dianthus—There is a wide selection of reds and pinks.

Snow-in-summer spreads freely

Sedums—Both *S. sieboldi* and *S. cauticolum,* suggested for shade.

Tulips—*Tulipa aucheriana,* dwarf mauve, and *T. kaufmanniana* Brilliant are ideal.

Gypsophila repens fratensis—Allow 18 inches to spread and room to hang. Needs good drainage.

Make Room For Perennials

From page 99

ery foliage. In sunny spots, coreopsis Golden Showers will be cheerful.

The new lavender Hidcote Blue has been more vigorous than others, and in my garden it has been winter hardy. From July to frost, it is a mass of rich blue spikes on silvery plants, mounded in form, which attain 15 inches. If cut as they open, the spikes will dry well for use in winter bouquets.

Then there are dozens of perennials which are short-lived. Delphiniums, magnificent in cooler climates, do not last more than a year or two with me. Fraxinella or gas plant is,

Oriental poppies are colorful

however, long lasting if unmolested by frequent transplanting.

Aster frikarti Wonder of Staffa, my favorite of the perennial asters, may live for years or die the first winter. Yet its clear blue flowers are so prized in late summer and fall that it is worth treating it as an annual, if need be. Other asters include the recent dwarf Oregon asters, Bonny Blue and Persian Rose. The first grows only 8-10 inches high and the second 15-18 tall.

Attention recently has been centered on bleeding-hearts or dicentras, with such hybrids as Paramount, with its blue-green foliage and lacquer red to rose red spikes, and Debutante, blush pink, with light silvery green leaves. Also desirable is Silversmith, which sends up stiff white flower spikes.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 — "Longwood Gardens, Horticultural Wonderland," Dr. Walter H. Hodge, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Penna. This lecture will be illustrated with colored slides.

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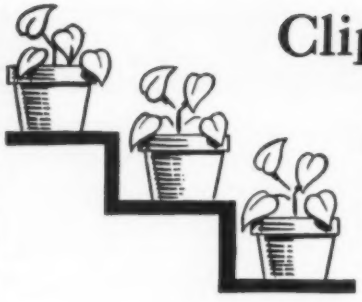

Clippings from CLUBS and SOCIETIES

Williamsburg Garden Symposium

The 1958 Williamsburg Garden Symposium to be held in two three-day sessions, March 5-7 and 12-14, will honor two Virginia botanists, John Custis and John Clayton. The program at Colonial Williamsburg will include lectures by renowned horticulturists, landscape architects and flower arrangers, as well as tours around historic Colonial Williamsburg and nearby Jamestown and Yorktown.

Speakers at the first session will include Paul F. Frese, Alden Hopkins, Mrs. J. Lloyd Berrall, Ralph Ellis Gunn, Dr. Walter H. Hodge, Richard D. Thomson and James H. Beale. During the second session H. W. Rickett, Alden Hopkins, Mrs. Dudley Fort, Hideo Sasaki, Julian A. Steyermark, James C. Rose, Helen Van Pelt Wilson and H. A. Borthwick will be speakers.

For additional information write: Mrs. Cecil Cunningham, Symposium Registrar, Colonial Williamsburg, Va.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

389 Suburban Station Building, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

MR. GEORGE W. CLARK, *President* DR. J. FRANKLIN STYER, *Treasurer*
MRS. E. PAGE ALLINSON, *Secretary*

February Events

Thursday, February 27th, 3.00 P.M., *Constitution Room, Hotel* Sheraton, illustrated lecture by Dr. Stephen Collins: "Along Nature Trails in the Northeast". Dr. Collins received his PhD. at Rutgers University and is at the present time doing research in ecology at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

Wednesday, February 19, in the rooms of the Society, a display of camellias staged by Dr. S. Lehman Nyce of Norristown, Pa.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, February 18, 19 and 20, exhibition, in the rooms of the Society, of specimens of holly staged by the Clarendon Garden Nursery of Pinehurst North Carolina and Earle Dilatush of Robbinsville, New Jersey.

Philadelphia Flower Show

March 10 to 15 inclusive, in the Commercial Museum. The Horticultural Committee of the Society will stage Horticultural Classes for Amateur Growers, a new feature at the show. All entries must be grown by the exhibitor and must be accompanied by a short description of cultural procedure. The classes include miniature narcissus, trumpet narcissus, begonias, saintpaulias and a "living exhibit of horticultural interest or merit, containing at least one plant grown, trained or planted by the exhibitor", such as terrariums, sink gardens, bonsai and hanging baskets. All classes are competitive with the exception of the last.

Council Members

At the Annual Meeting of the Society held on November 20, the following were elected to membership on the Council for a three year term: Mrs. E. Page Allinson, Dr. John B. Carson, Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr., Mr. William Clarke Mason, Mr. Frederick W. G. Peck, Mrs. Walter Rebmann, Mr. Richard H. L. Sexton, Miss Estelle L. Sharp, Mr. William H. Weber, Mr. John G. Williams.

Dr. Walter H. Hodge

Lecture on Longwood Gardens

"Longwood Gardens, Horticultural Wonderland" is the title of the lecture to be given by Dr. Walter Hodge at Horticultural Hall, Boston, Feb. 18, at 8 P.M. Dr. Hodge, Head of the Department of Education and Research at Longwood, will discuss the history of Longwood Gardens, established by the late Pierre S. du Pont, its water gardens, greenhouses, arboretum, and fountain displays as well as the future of this important horticultural showplace.

The lecture, the final in the winter series, is free to members of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society who present their membership certificates at the door. Fee for non-members is 75¢.

SPRING FLOWER SHOWS

Cincinnati, Ohio	Feb. 8-16
Des Moines, Ia.	Feb. 22-Mar. 2
Columbus, Ohio	Feb. 22-Mar. 2
Springfield, Mass.	Feb. 26-Mar. 3
Cleveland, Ohio	Mar. 1-9
Worcester, Mass.	Mar. 6-9
Washington, D. C.	Mar. 6-12
Boston, Mass.	Mar. 9-15
New York, N. Y.	Mar. 9-15
Philadelphia, Pa.	Mar. 10-15
Inglewood, Calif.	Mar. 14-23
Hartford, Conn.	Mar. 16-22
Chicago, Ill.	Mar. 21-30
Detroit, Mich.	Mar. 22-30
Toledo, Ohio	Mar. 25-30
New Bedford, Mass.	Mar. 27-30
Oakland, Calif.	May 3-11

Opened to the Public

The private arboretum of New York Senator and Mrs. Thomas C. Desmond, located two miles north of Newburgh, N. Y., has been opened to the public on weekdays, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

The arboretum, which contains 5000 trees, shrubs and woody vines, representing nearly 900 species, is a result of the joining of two old Hudson River estates that were planted 100 years ago.

The Desmond arboretum was awarded the large Gold Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

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Dr. R. Milton Carleton, President of Chicago Horticultural Society, Gosta Oldenburg, Consul-General of Sweden, Nels J. Johnson, Arborist

Chicago Dendrologist Honored

At the recent annual meeting of the Chicago Horticultural Society, the Charles L. Hutchinson medal for service to horticulture in the Chicago region was presented to Nels J. Johnson, dendrologist and tree expert of Evanston. Mr. Johnson, a long time advocate of the licensing of tree experts, recognized the fact that the public should be protected against charlatans in this field. Thus, after many years of personal effort at the head of a group including other tree experts, he succeeded in having a law passed, by the State of Illinois, that required licensing.

COMING EVENTS

New Orleans, La. Feb. 6-7. "Flowers at the Mardi Gras" and "Carnival Traditions," 9th Annual Flower Show, Garden Guild, D. H. Holmes Co., Canal St.

Feb. 9—Mar. 2. Chicago. Azalea & Camellia Show, Chicago Park District, Garfield & Lincoln Park Conservatories

Feb. 18. Boston. Lecture: "Longwood Gardens, Horticultural Wonderland", Dr. Walter H. Hodge, Mass. Horticultural Soc., Horticultural Hall

Feb. 25-27. Cincinnati, Ohio. Convention, American Carnation Soc., Netherlands-Hilton Hotel

Feb. 27-28. San Antonio, Tex. Annual Show, Alamo Orchid Soc., Wolff & Marx Co.

Mar. Kennett Square, Penna. Conservatory Display of Acacias, Amaryllis, Azaleas, Camellias, Cymbidium Orchids & Spring Flowering Bulbs, Longwood Gardens

Mar. 1-9. La Canada, Calif. Camellia Show, Los Angeles Camellia Council, Descanso Gardens

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New Tropical Waterlilies

From page 92

actual count, in midsummer, have 44 petals. The startling variety opens out flat and remains open late under artificial light. The huge oval leaves overlap slightly and are scalloped around the edges. In color they are deep green and spotted with brown.

General MacArthur, a talisman, won the Gold Certificate of Merit at the World's Fair.

will control mosquitoes as well. A properly balanced animal and plant life will insure clear water to mirror the waterlily blooms and to make darting fish visible. By using commercial fertilizers, the algae problem will be reduced considerably.

To plant a waterlily, make a hole the size of the ball of soil and lay the rootstock horizontally, at least an inch below the soil surface, with the crown sticking out a little. If planting in boxes, place a half-inch layer of clean sand on top to prevent the soil from washing and making water cloudy.

GENEREUX

Lotus and other kinds of water plants may be grown with waterlilies

A small waterlily pool, in keeping with today's trend toward outdoor living, can be one of the most refreshing features of the garden. In addition to the continual enjoyment it will impart, it will add value to the property.

First to consider is the location, remembering that full sun is best, although waterlilies will do well if they receive sun for half a day. The depth of the pool will depend on whether plants will be grown in boxes or in soil at the bottom.

In general, a concrete pool is more practical for the small place than one with a soil base, but since the alkaline in the new cement is injurious to plants, let the water stand for a few days and drain and refill the pool a few times before planting waterlilies.

When planting, a good rule is to allow one tropical and one hardy waterlily to each square yard of water surface. Plant, also, oxygenating grasses, and add water snails to act as scavengers and fish for appeal, though they

The time to plant waterlilies outdoors depends upon the climate. In generally frost-free areas, plant hardy kinds from February through October, but where freezing occurs, the first of April is a safe date. Tropical waterlilies, on the other hand, are not hardy, and must be planted only after the weather has warmed up and a minimum temperature of 70° F. can be expected. In hot weather that follows, they grow very rapidly.

Hardy waterlilies may be safely wintered in the pool if the roots do not freeze, and this can be done by covering the pool with boards and a blanket of straw or leaves in the fall before the weather freezes. They may also be lifted and stored in a cool cellar, where they must not be allowed to dry out, since dry rot will attack them.

Tropical waterlilies, which are tender, can be treated as annuals and planted out each spring. Or they may be wintered in a sunny greenhouse to be set out when weather permits.

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Tropical Plants I Grow

From page 85

lias, anthuriums, stephanotis and clivias. Then we tried star of Bethlehem (*Campanula isophylla*), maidenhair ferns, azaleas and bird-of-paradise, as well as our first orchids—*Laeliocattleya bowringiana, Cypripedium maudiae,* cymbidium variety Doris, coelogynes and dendrobiums.

In 1953, we came across Professor John V. Watson's book on the "Gardens of the Antilles". So to Jamaica, Haiti and Puerto Rico we went, where we became acquainted with more exotic plants and even imported an orange-brick bougainvillea and a red hibiscus, with recurved petals. We had such good luck with importing that we bought some orchids, including species or "botanicals."

In our travels, we also found out that plants of flowering size are usually very expensive. This led us to experiment with hydroponics. So we installed a small bench, with gravel, that is sub-irrigated once or twice a week with plant nutriments, where cattleya orchids flower about two years earlier than in osmunda fibre.

Over the seven years of operation, many of our first plants have been discarded or given away, though bird-of-paradise, hibiscus, bougainvillea, plumbago, camellias and anthuriums have remained with us.

Among the orchids, vandas and cattleyas do very well. The epidendrums, too, are happy, and especially lovely are *Epidendrum mariae, E. vitellinum, E. stamfordianum* and *E. nemorale. Cypripedium maudiae* also thrives in the company of *Odontoglossom pendulum, O. pulchellum* and *O. splendidum.* Coelogynes are equally successful, particularly *Coelogyne asperata* and *C. cristata.*

Orchids which comprise the largest part of our collection include rodriguezias, aerides, cycnoches, catasetums, *Chysis bractescens, mormodes, Zygopetalum mackayi* and several oncidiums. Of special interest are the bifoliate cattleyas, with emphasis on *C. bicolor* and *C. granulosa.*

Bifrenaria harrisoniae, Cattleya luteola and *Lycaste aromatica* are other favorites, which with the many other kinds of tropical plants we grow in our small greenhouse give us a great amount of pleasure and fill our leisure hours with much needed relaxation.

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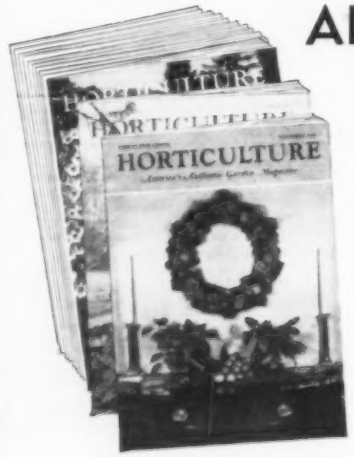

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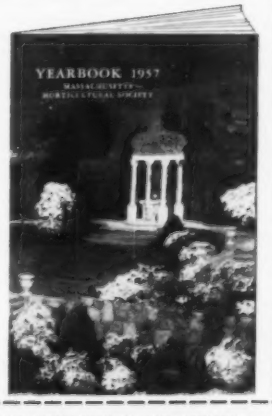

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